**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 2 February 2024**

**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

**Public Streaming:** [**http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive**](https://niu-edu.zoom.us/j/82215987778?pwd=SlBtaEFiaG0xWmp0SWs4b0VZZVhpZz09)

***Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an*** [***Intent to Speak***](https://cglink.me/2sZ/s54) ***form, no later than 11:59 pm, February 1st, 2024.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. From January 26th, 2023

*Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.*

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Speaker’s Report
3. Special Report
4. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
5. Committee Report(s)
6. Executive Branch Report(s)
7. Cabinet Report(s)
8. Old Business
9. SR55025: A resolution to amend the Constitution to add a beginning ceremony before each Senate meeting
10. SR55028: A resolution to amend the Operators manual to include a sample schedule along with specifics of how the opening ceremony is to be held
11. New Business
12. SR55035: Adding one more day to the elections
13. SR55036: A resolution to include the percentage of senators to represent housing in the SGA
14. SR55037: Clarifies that campaigning cannot take place in the building or one hundred feet from any voting station on Election Day.
15. SR55038: A resolution to recognize student organizations.
16. Good of the Order
17. Announcements
18. 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**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** A **10 November 2023**

**Author:** Senator Albino Rosales 

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55025**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:**  A resolution to amend the Constitution to add a beginning ceremony before each Senate meeting

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS,  official meetings have a parliament procedure to start their meetings with a ceremony.

WHEREAS,  Student Government Association of Northern Illinois University did opening beginning ceremony before each Senate meeting.

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association stopped the beginning ceremony before each senate meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic as the meetings went virtual for sometime

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association Senate has returned their Senate meetings in person. And has not done an opening  ceremony since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

**Section 3.  Senate Meetings**

A.  The time, date and place of regular meetings shall be decided upon by the Senate, or in the event the Senate does not decide, then the Speaker shall decide.  If the regular meeting time of the Senate shall fall during an academic recess or during final examinations then the Speaker shall decide the time, date and place of the next meeting.  These shall constitute regular meetings.

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).

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. SGA Senators missing a regular, special, or committee meeting may file a petition with the Speaker for the absence to be excused.  The Speaker may excuse an absence for the reasons including, but not limited to, illness, official University business, or academic commitments.  Excused absences shall not count towards a Senators absence tally as described in Article IV, Section 3. Paragraph C, of this Constitution.

D.  Quorum for the Senate shall consist of a majority of the total number of filled Senate seats.

E. To have a opening ceremony in the beginning of the Senate meetings after the meeting is called to order following the process described in the Operating manual.

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

**Old Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **B** **01 December 2023**

**Author:** Senator Albino Rosales, and Deputy Speaker English 

**Sponsor:** Senator Albino Rosales

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution  55028**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:**  A resolution to amend the Operators manual to include a sample schedule along with specifics of how the opening ceremony is to be held

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS,  official meetings have a parliament procedure to start their meetings with a ceremony.

WHEREAS,  Student Government Association of Northern Illinois University did opening beginning ceremony before each Senate meeting.

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association stopped the beginning ceremony before each senate meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic as the meetings went virtual for sometime

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association Senate has returned their Senate meetings in person. And has not done an opening ceremony since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the operating manual be updated to include the following be amended to the following.

**XXI**

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**Senate Meeting Schedule Guideline**

The senate should produce and hand out the agenda prior to the meeting start to members of the public in the audience. The Senate shall have their meetings follow a schedule similar to the one provided below;

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Verification of Quorum
4. Opening Ceremony
   1. Pledge of Allegiance \*
   2. Land acknowledgement \*\*
5. Public Comments
6. Approval of the Minutes
7. Approval of the Agenda
8. Speaker’s Report
9. Special Report(s)
10. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
11. Committee Report(s)
12. Executive Reports(s)
13. Cabinet Report(s)
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Good of the Order
17. Announcements
18. Adjournment
19. Roll Call
20. ~~Closing Ceremony~~

\*\* the current iteration of the land acknowledgement is as follows; 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. the land acknowledgement should be updated as required.

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

**New Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  A   **February 2 2024**

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution** 55035

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** Adding one more day to the elections

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the amount of days that the polls are open shall allow for more votes.

WHEREAS, Monday will be added to make it Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

WHEREAS, the election results will still be announced on time.

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 Bylaws be amended to the following.

ARTICLE I

TIMELINE OF SPRING ELECTIONS

1. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of October.
2. Nominations for the Board of Elections shall take place no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of November. The Board of Elections shall also be appointed at the next consecutive meeting.
3. Candidates’ meetings must take place no later than the Monday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess.
4. Candidates’ registration shall close the Friday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess, and the ballot shall be announced no later than the Wednesday prior to spring recess.
5. Elections shall take place on the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of March.
6. Election results shall be announced no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed.

**New Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B   **2 February 2024**

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution** 55036

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:**A resolution to include the percentage of senators to represent housing in the SGA.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, This will include the number of students representing housing in the SGA senate to be calculated.

WHEREAS, The percentage of senators to represent housing be at minimum ten percent of total senators per session.

WHEREAS, This will allow for the students living in on campus housing to be represented based on population.

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 Bylaws be amended to the following.

**ARTICLE III**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY**

**Section 1**

**Legislative Qualifications**

1. 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.
      1. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by one student who occupies one (1) seat per college.
      2. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy one (1) seat.
      3. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy two (2) seats.
      4. 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.
      5. 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. A minimum of ten percent (10%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing university provided housing.

**New Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  C   **2 February 2024**

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution** 55037

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** Clarifies that campaigning cannot take place in the building or one hundred feet from any voting station on Election Day.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the board of elections can issue sanctions due to campaigning in any campus building with a polling center in it.

WHEREAS, campaigning must take place one hundred feet from the building with a polling place.

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 Bylaws be amended to the following.

Section 3

Sanctions on Election Day

1. On the day(s) of an election, no sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than four (4) hours and/or cover more than one (1) building or location. The penalty for multiple sanctions may accumulate a series of sanctions that may last beyond the time limits indicated in this paragraph or cover multiple locations.
2. No campaigning will be allowed within ~~and~~ one hundred (100) feet of any building containing a voting station on Election Day(s). This shall include any physical, written, or verbal campaigning. No electronic campaigning shall be allowed that allows a campaign to define a set area, including, but not limited to, a flyer that advocates for a candidate or their campaign within 100 feet of a building containing a voting station.
   1. Candidates and/or their workers who violate this regulation may not be allowed to distribute literature in the vicinity of the building that contains the voting station where the violation occurred for the remainder of the election.
   2. For any further violation of this regulation after the first, the candidate and/or their workers shall not be allowed to distribute literature anywhere on campus for the remainder of the election.
   3. No candidate shall be sanctioned for a violation of this section unless it is shown by a substantial weight of the evidence that the candidate or someone working on behalf of the candidate was the violator. The candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this section simply because someone possessed their campaign material inside of a voting place.

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: D** 2 February 2024

**Author:**  Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55038**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to recognize 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. Belegarth Medieval Combat Society
2. Gender and Sexualities Alliance
3. Association of Graduate Economics Students

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