

**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - A. From April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
*Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.*
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Speaker's Report
- VII. Special Report
  - A. Chief-Justice Weiskopf
    - i. on recommended policy as stated in the Supreme Court opinions
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
  - A. SR55054: A resolution to change the amount of time allowed to update the Constitution and Bylaws
  - B. SR55055: A resolution to ensure the SGA election policy requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to change
  - C. SR55056: A resolution to update the definition of bills and resolutions in the SGA Constitution
  - D. SR55057: A resolution to ensure the SGA Supreme Court follows their Code of Procedure
  - E. SR55058: A resolution to clarify Article X in the SGA Constitution
  - F. SR55059: A resolution to update and clarify Article VI Elections of the Constitution
  - G. SR55061: A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend
  - H. SR55062: A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend if they are receiving a stipend already from SGA
  - I. SR55065: A resolution to clarify the office hours for both legislative and executive branches for paid position holders and applicants to know the number of hours needed in regard to working that position
  - J. SB55026: A bill to grant SGA Senators a stipend for their work accomplished over the semester.
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SR55067: A resolution approve funding allocations for AY 2024-2025
  - B. SR55068: A resolution to decide the Fall 2024 Senator Stipend amount
  - C. SP55003: An introduction to A petition to terminate Chief-Justice Weiskopf
  - D. SR55070: A resolution to recognize student organizations

- E. SR55071: A resolution to confirm a Supreme Court Justice
- 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**

**First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A**

12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55054  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to change the amount of time allowed to update the Constitution and Bylaws

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Vice President is required to make the changes to the bylaws and constitution within twenty-one (21) days,

WHEREAS, upon failure to make these changes the Speaker shall make the changes with a new twenty-one (21) day window,

WHEREAS, this accumulates to six (6) weeks where the bylaws and constitution may not be updated,

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate strives for transparency to the student body,

WHEREAS, the Senate has the sole authority to amend the SGA Constitution,

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

**SGA Constitution**

**Article III, Section 2.B**

**B.** Update the Constitution and Bylaws within **fourteen (14)** ~~twenty-one (21)~~ days of the passage of amendments, with the aid of the Office of the Vice-President. If this duty is not completed, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker.

**SGA Constitution**

**Article IV: Section 4.A**

A. If the appropriate office (s) or officer(s) fails to amend the Constitution and Bylaws within **fourteen (14)** ~~twenty-one (21)~~ days of passage, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker, who will update the Constitution and Bylaws within fourteen (14) days of the transfer.

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55055  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to ensure the SGA election policy requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to change

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate can currently change the election policy with a mere majority,

WHEREAS, the SGA election policy used to be in the SGA Constitution due to its importance,

WHEREAS, the 55<sup>th</sup> Session SGA Senate recognizes the election policies importance,

WHEREAS, the Senate has the sole authority to amend the SGA Constitution,

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

**SGA Constitution**

**Article IV, Section 2.B**

B. The following cases require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the total number of seats which are filled in the Senate to:

1. Remove from office of any person elected or appointed.
2. Pass a proposed Constitutional Amendment.
3. Any legislative piece that **makes** pertains directly to the SGA HR Policy
4. **Any legislative piece that pertains directly to the SGA Election Policy**
5. Withdrawal of SGA-recognition from a student organization, permanently or for a specified period of time.
6. Call for a referendum vote without a student petition.
7. Overriding a veto.
8. All other such matters as shall be set forth in this Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules.
9. **Appointment of senators.**

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item:** C

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55056**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to update the definition of bills and resolutions in the SGA Constitution

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current definitions of bills and resolutions in the SGA Constitution is confusing,

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate has the authority to amend the SGA Constitution,

WHEREAS, ensuring the constitution is clear is important to future Senate sessions,

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

**SGA Constitution**

**Article IV, Section 5**

**Article IV, Section 5**

A. Upon approval by the Senate the proposed resolution 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 Office of the Speaker or The Office of the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a resolution. The following shall be considered as a proposed resolution.

1. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding removing a person from office.
2. A proposed Constitutional Amendment
3. A proposed amendment to the Senate Operating Rules
4. A proposed punishment or expulsion of senators
5. Any proposed appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution.
6. 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.
7. 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. Upon approval by the Senate and signed by the President a proposed bill shall be considered a statute of the Senate. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the bylaws may be made at the discretion of either The Office of the Speaker or The Office of the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a bill. The following shall be considered as a proposed bill.

1. All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees not mentioned as described in Article IV, Section 5. Paragraph A, of this Constitution 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,

2. 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.***

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: D**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55057**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to ensure the SGA Supreme Court follows their Code of Procedure

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court's Code of Procedure allows the petitioner and respondent to question the objectivity of Justices,

WHEREAS, the current Supreme Court questioned whether or not the Code of Procedure should be followed,

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate wants to ensure the integrity of the SGA Supreme Court remains,

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate has the authority to amend the SGA Constitution,

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

**SGA Constitution**

**Article IV: Section 4.A**

A. All justices shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Senate, as vacancies arise. After their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accord with the removal from office procedure described in this Constitution. The Supreme Court shall be composed of five justices. Legislative Branch and Executive officers and staff shall not be eligible to serve on the Supreme Court. Members shall serve so long as they remain students in good standing at NIU.

B. The five (5) Justices of the court shall elect one of their number to serve as Chief Justice. The Court shall have one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices.

C. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. A Justices objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedure.

D. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.

1. If quorum is not able to be met all petitions presented to the court will be treated as if the Supreme Court voted to uphold the current ruling

2. If quorum is not able to be met due to Justice recusal as described in Article V, Section 3. Paragraph D the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to The SGA Senate with the SGA Speaker acting as Interim Chief Justice for the case.

1. No member of the Senate who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. A Senators objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedure
2. If the Speaker has to remove themselves then the powers of Interim Chief Justice shall fall to the persons outlined in the order of succession for the Senate.

3. If quorum is not able to be met due to Senate recusal as described in Article V, Section 3. Paragraph D the powers of the supreme court will fall to The SGA Advisor



**Old Business**

**Agenda Item:** E

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55058**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to clarify Article X in the SGA Constitution,

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article X of the SGA Constitution is not clear,

WHEREAS, Article X specifically says an official copy of the SGA Constitution must be maintained by the Vice President,

WHEREAS, under this provision if there is no Vice President, the Constitution may not be maintained,

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate has the authority to amend the SGA Constitution,

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

**SGA Constitution**

**Article IV: Section 4.A**

**Section 1. Scope of the Constitution**

Neither the Student Government Association nor any SGA-recognized student organization shall take any action or pass any legislation that conflicts with this Constitution **unless it is to amend this Constitution.**

**Section 2. Ratification**

The Student Government Association shall begin operating under this Constitution immediately upon ratification by the Senate. The official copy of the Constitution shall be maintained by **The Office of** the Vice President, **The Office of the Speaker, or The Office of the Supreme Court** and shall be available for public inspection.

**Section 3. Transition of Officials**

SGA officials in office at the time of passage of this Constitution shall serve until the end of their terms.

**Section 4. Transition of Existing Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures**

All existing bylaws, rules, and procedures shall remain in full force and effect, except as they may be modified by or are in conflict with this Constitution. Noting herein shall prevent subsequent amendments to the existing Bylaws, rules, and procedures, if such amendments are in accord with this Constitution.

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

## Old Business

**First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** F

**12 April 2024**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English, Speaker Cole Hensley, Election Commissioner Bereolos, Senator Anukwuocha, Senator Onebunne, Senator Guerrero

**Sponsor:** Election Commissioner Bereolos

### **ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55059** **Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to update and clarify Article VI Elections of the Constitution

#### **Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the 2024 Board of Elections noticed discrepancies in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws,

WHEREAS, the Board of Elections understands the Constitution overrides the bylaws,

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws should be properly aligned to ensure clarity,

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 and the Bylaws will be amended to the following:

## **ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1. Time of Elections**

There shall be one regular SGA elections each year. The Election shall be held as stated in the SGA Bylaws: **Election Policy: Timeline of spring elections.** Runoff elections shall be held one calendar week from the date of the original election **results being announced.** The Senate may set a different date for a particular election. The Senate shall be considered to officially start at the first meeting after the previous session closes. If at any time the number of vacant seats in the Senate shall reach the number **indicated in the Student Government Association Bylaws:** **Election Procedure: Special Elections,** then a special election shall immediately be called for all vacant Senate seats.

### **Section 2. Spring Term Elections**

The Spring Election shall consist of **the** election of the President, the Vice President, **and** the Treasurer, the Trustee, **and** **the** Senate candidates running to represent their chosen constituencies but not to exceed the Senate seats as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws: **Election Procedure: Legislative Qualifications Part II Article III, §1.A-B.** 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

Seats as outlined by the Bylaws: Election Procedure: Legislative Qualifications 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.”

### Section 4. Determination of Winners

- A. The candidate receiving a majority of all legitimate votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Trustee with the most votes for each seat or set of seats, as defined in the SGA Bylaws, shall be the winners. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then a runoff election for those candidates as defined in the SGA Bylaws: Election Procedure: Determination of Winners with the two highest vote totals shall be held.
- B. The Senate candidates with the most votes for each seat or set of seats, as defined in the Bylaws, shall be the winners. If a tie occurs, then a runoff election shall be held as defined in the SGA Bylaws: Election Procedure: Runoff Elections.
- C. The person(s) with the most votes in a runoff election shall be considered the winner. If a tie occurs, then a new runoff election shall be held. All runoff elections shall be held within one week and shall be for one day only and shall follow the SGA Bylaws: Election Procedure: Runoff Elections.

### Section 5. Election Procedures

All elections for the Executive Branch and for the Senate seats shall be conducted in accordance with this Constitution and the Elections Policy sections of the SGA Bylaws. Any candidates for office shall have the right, if they so choose, to campaign as a ticket team. The Bylaws shall provide for the procedures for punishing those who violate the Elections Policy, this Constitution, or the Bylaws. Such punishments may include complete disqualification of candidates and their votes for all offices in the election or other such penalties as the Bylaws may prescribe.

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item:** G

**Author:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman

**Sponsor:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55061**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senators could receive a stipend for their work in SGA Senate;

WHEREAS, Senators need to work with the Speaker to decide the stipend amount and a list of responsibilities that need to be completed before the next semester;

WHEREAS, the Speaker will set a proposed criteria list and stipend amount to Senate before the end of the semester for the next incoming semester;

WHEREAS, it will be the Speaker's responsibility to decide the total amount of the stipend each Senator shall receive for the semester;

WHEREAS, the Speaker will propose a stipend amount for the next semester's Senate to receive at the end of the next semester;

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 following changes be added to the Student Government Association Constitution:

**ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4. The Speaker of the Senate**

- A. The Speaker of the Senate shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one (1) year term of office, and shall enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Senator, other than the right to vote. If the Speaker shall also be elected to the Senate, then the Speaker shall have the right to vote. The Speaker shall have the authority to send resolutions or bills to committee for study; this shall not be interpreted to abridge the authority of the Senate to make decisions on resolutions or bills. The Speaker shall be the spokesperson for the Senate.
- 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.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to instruct all new senators of correct constitutional, bylaw, and parliamentary procedures.

- D. The Speaker shall cause to be kept accurate records of Senate meetings, the Operating Rules of the Senate and all committees that report to the Senate.
- E. Appoint Senators to all Senate Committees with the approval of the Senate and shall coordinate such committees as necessary.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to decide the potential stipend amount for all Senators to receive at the end of the semester. The Speaker shall propose the stipend amount along with a criteria list at the end of the previous semester. The stipend amount and criteria list must receive a majority approval from Senate to pass. If the Senate fails to approve the stipend amount, the SGA Advisor shall ultimately decide the stipend amount.
- G. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee.
- H. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the authority to call off a Senate meeting in extreme cases. However, the Speaker may not call off two consecutive senate meeting without the approval of a majority of the senate. The Speaker's discretion at canceling the meeting will be put under review by the senate the following meeting. If the reasons for the Speaker in calling off the meeting are deemed invalid, then the Senate is empowered to take action against them.
- I. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the power to decide the stipend amount that each Senator should receive at the end of the year, based on the Senator's ability to complete their duties and responsibilities and completion of the set criteria by the Office of the Speaker. The Speaker shall also have the ability to prevent a Senator from receiving a stipend, with proper reasoning and evidence.
- J. If the appropriate office (s) or officer(s) fails to amend the Constitution and Bylaws within twenty-one (21) days of passage, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker, who will update the Constitution and Bylaws within fourteen (14) days of the transfer.

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item:** H

**Author:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman, Senator Anukwuocha

**Sponsor:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman, Senator Anukwuocha

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55062**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend if they are receiving a stipend already from SGA.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senators cannot receive a stipend as a Senator if they are receiving a stipend from SGA already;

WHEREAS, a Senator who may be serving on the Board of Elections will receive a stipend;

WHEREAS, a Senator should still be able to receive a stipend for their work in Senate as well as their work in the Board of Elections and other areas that grant a stipend;

WHEREAS, Senators shall receive the stipends based on their efforts and ability to accomplish their duties and responsibilities;

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 following changes be added to the Student Government Association Constitution:

**ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

The legislative authority of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Senate.

**Section 1. Powers of the Senate**

The Senate shall consist of representatives from the Northern Illinois University Student Body elected according to the rules set forth in the Bylaws. The number of senators shall be set in the Bylaws. The Senate shall review and check the actions of the Executive Branch and shall legislate on matters of student interest. The Senate shall be further empowered:

- A. To appropriate allotted monies and other benefits to SGA-recognized student organizations. The expenditures of such monies are required to follow standard University purchasing and disbursement procedures and are subject to audits as required by state law
- B. To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein. The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws in accordance with the rules for a presidential veto prescribed herein. The Elections Policy and the Finance Policy shall be part of the SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall have the sole power to create and amend the Senate Operating Rules. The Senate shall have the power, with the approval of the Supreme Court, to create and amend the Code of Procedure.
- C. To recognize student organizations. Qualifications for SGA-recognition as a student organization shall be specified in the SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall also have the power to ratify, reject or revoke SGA

recognition of student organizations after it has notified the affected organizations and their advisors of the time, date and place of the meeting at which this will be decided. Revoking a student organization's SGA recognition shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote.

- D. To choose additional legislative officers it may deem necessary. The Senate shall decide the duties of each appointed SGA member and to establish a stipend for any official of the SGA that the Senate shall deem necessary. The Senate must approve all appointed officers. All stipend officials of the SGA must perform work equivalent to their stipend during the time in which they are paid. ~~No person shall hold more than one SGA stipend position at one time.~~ Senators and any other stipend officials shall receive their stipends, pending review following the HR Policy and review by the SGA Advisor. The Senate may conduct a review of the job performance of all paid members of the SGA each semester.

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



**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: I**

**Author:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Lazaric

**Sponsor:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Lazaric

**First Reading**

12 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55026**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to grant SGA Senators a stipend for their work accomplished over the semester.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senators have numerous responsibilities to remain seated on the Student Government Association Senate;

WHEREAS, Senators do not have any incentive to improve SGA except for being removed from Senate;

WHEREAS, Senators should have some incentive to fulfill their responsibilities to SGA that rewards them for completing their jobs;

WHEREAS, Senators should receive compensation for there dedication and effort in helping to improve student life on campus;

WHEREAS, Senators should receive a stipend that is given to them under the condition that they complete all of their responsibilities within the semester;

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 following changes be added to the Student Government Association Bylaws:

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
- B. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
  1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
    - a. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
    - b. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
    - c. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among - 6 - those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.

2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. a. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
  3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker's decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.
  4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
  5. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator's excusal form.
- C. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.
- D. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) training during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
1. If a senator has already attended CODE training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
  2. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.
  3. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
  4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
  5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses - 7 - per semester with the appropriate university office.

- E. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by the Senate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
- F. Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.
- G. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.
- H. Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for their work accomplished during the semester. The amount will be predetermined by the Speaker and Student Advisor and will only be rewarded fully upon the completion of all responsibilities that a Senator must complete within the semester.
  - 1. The Office of the Speaker will collect a list of the duties and responsibilities that Senators will complete over the semester. From there, the Office of the Speaker will determine the amount each Senator shall receive based on the list of completion.
  - 2. The Office of the Speaker will release to each Senator individually the total amount of the stipend they will receive based on their work for Senate no later than two (2) weeks before the last meeting of the semester.
  - 3. It is at the Speaker's discretion to award a portion of the stipend to a Senator if the Senator completed only a partial amount of the listed responsibilities for a Senator. Should the Senator wish to appeal the decision for the amount received, the Senator can appeal with the Rules and Procedures Committee within one (1) week of the initial notice of the stipend release.
  - 4. If a Senator graduates within one semester of session, the requirements to receive the stipend will be the same as if they were serving as a Senator for an entire session.
  - 5. If a Senator joins before the semester ends, they will still be held to the same responsibilities as any other Senator and will receive the amount determined by the Office of the Speaker.
  - 6. If a Senator does not complete a single one of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and that are described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Manual, they will not receive any amount of the stipend. This cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
  - 7. If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: J**

**Author:** Senator Robinson, Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Senator Robinson Deputy Speaker English

**First Reading**

**12 April 2024**

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55065  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to clarify the office hours for both legislative and executive branches for paid position holders and applicants to know the number of hours needed in regard to working that position

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.C3 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “Shall maintain scheduled office hours as set by the Chief of Staff.”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.C4 states that “Shall keep office hours, defined as work conducted during the normal business hours of the Student Government Association.”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §2 has no mention of office hours; and

WHEREAS, certain positions within the SGA are paid positions

THEREFORE, the office hours of SGA will be monitored following HR policies; and

THEREFORE, the Students of Northern Illinois University represented in the SGA Senate enact that the SGA Constitution be changed to add the following:

**SGA Constitution**

**Article II: The Student Government Association**

**Section 1. Name**

The sole student governing body shall be the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association, the abbreviation for which shall be the NIU SGA.

**Section 2. Purpose**

The purpose of the NIU SGA shall be the organization and coordination of activities of student interest and the representation of student views concerning University policy, including working through shared governance.

**Section 3. Membership**

Membership in this organization shall consist of all students of NIU. An enrolled student shall be defined as anyone taking a credit hour course at NIU, without respect to part-time,

full-time, undergraduate or graduate status. Anyone duly enrolled for the Spring and Fall Semesters of the same calendar year shall be considered a member of the NIU SGA for the intervening Summer Term.

#### **Section 4. Qualifications for Office**

To hold any elected or appointed position within the Student Government Association a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University. Undergraduate students must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.500 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University. Graduate students must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.000 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University. This shall apply to all officers, senators and representatives of the Student Government Association. In addition, to hold the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer or Student Trustee, an undergraduate student must also be enrolled in the Fall and Spring for (12) semester hours; all students not classified as undergraduate while seeking the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer or Student Trustee must be enrolled for (9) semester hours.

#### **Section 5. Organization**

The NIU SGA shall consist of three branches: The Executive Branch, under the President; the Legislative Branch, called the Senate; and The Judicial Branch, called the Supreme Court.

#### **Section 6. Paid Positions limitations**

The NIU SGA shall have paid positions as laid out in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws. These paid positions shall have a maximum of 10 paid hours per week (which includes 10 required office hours per week). However, some paid positions require more than 10 hours per week. Therefore, the following positions may be eligible for more than 10 paid hours per week with the expressed consent from the SGA advisor . . .

1. SGA President
2. SGA Speaker of the Senate
3. SGA Treasurer
4. SGA Election Commissioner

a. The Election Commissioner is only eligible for more than 10 paid hours per week, during elections

1. Unless otherwise specified all paid positions of SGA shall be limited to a maximum of ten (10) hours of paid work a week. If a position is identified to require more than ten (10) hours the student may bring a resolution forward before senate with the approval of the SGA advisor or as a petition without the approval of the SGA advisor with at least signatures from at least seven (7) sitting senators. The fact that the advisor did not approve is required to be disclosed to the entire senate when the petition is brought to the floor.

2. Therefore, the following positions may be eligible for more than 10 paid hours per week

- a. SGA President
- b. SGA Speaker of the Senate
- c. SGA Treasurer
- d. SGA Election Commissioner
  - a. The Election Commissioner is only eligible for more than 10 paid hours per week, during elections

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: A**

**Author:** Speaker Hensley, Treasurer Larkin, Finance Committee

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley

**First Reading**

26 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55067  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution approve funding allocations for AY 2024-2025

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the finance committee has diligently gone over any future needs for the student body; and

WHEREAS, this is subject to change due to changes in next years student allocation to the SGA; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that this budget be approved for next year.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author: Speaker Hensley**

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**First Reading**

26 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55068**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to decide the Fall 2024 Senator Stipend amount

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the SGA Senate has the authority to decide the stipend amount for Senator;  
and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hensley has decided that the Fall 2024 stipend amount shall be \$250;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the 2024 SGA Senator Stipend amount be approved.

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



**New Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author: Speaker Hensley**

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**First Reading**

26 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE PETITION 55003  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** Introduction to a Petition to terminate Chief-Justice Weiskopf

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the Senate along with the SGA President have agreed Chief-Justice Weiskopf has failed and neglected his duty as Chief-Justice/Associate Justice of the SGA Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Constitution says a reason for termination is “neglect of duty” as seen in the letter below; and

WHEREAS, no corrective action can fix the problem at hand; and

WHEREAS, the remaining supervisors of the SGA strongly believe Chief-Justice Weiskopf should be terminated; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate must approve any suspension or termination of the Speaker, President, or Chief-Justice with a 2/3 Vote;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Chief-Justice Weiskopf shall be terminated from all positions he holds within SGA.

**Notice of Termination Vote**

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear Elliot Weiskopf,



This letter is a notice of a vote of termination occurring on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 pm in the HSC sky room during the SGA Senate session.

As the Chief-Justice of the SGA Supreme Court since the previous Chief-Justice graduated, you are responsible for upholding the Supreme court's code of procedure and to ensure the court is functioning correctly.

This can be seen in the SGA Constitution Article V, Section 4.A: "The Chief Justice shall be a voting member. The Chief Justice shall officiate at all court sessions, call the various people who will testify, count the votes and announce decisions to all concerned. The Chief Justice will be responsible for conducting all court sessions according to the Code of Procedure. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as the Judicial Branch's administrative officer and shall be responsible for requesting such funds as are deemed necessary for all court proceedings."

Additionally, the actions (or lack thereof) that led to this termination are as follows . . .

1. Failure to convene prior to the October 1<sup>st</sup> Governing Document Review Process due date (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
2. Failure to complete the Governing Document Review process prior to the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, and failure to complete this at all (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
3. Failure to review the Code of Conduct by December 1<sup>st</sup>, the failure to complete this at all (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
4. Failure to respond to a student's request for a copy of the Supreme Court ruling for case SY24001 (3/27) (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)

The SGA HR Policy serves as a way for corrective action throughout the current session. Whereas the SGA Supreme Court was not active until mid-March, well passed the deadlines. Thus, the remaining supervisors have concluded that no corrective-action can be taken, due to extreme neglect of duty.

Additionally the SGA Constitution, the Supreme Governing Document, says in Article VII, Section 2: "Proper reasons for Removal shall include but are not limited to the following: academic misconduct, failure to keep accurate records, financial misconduct, neglect of duty, abuse of the privileges of office, criminal behavior, and any other behavior that is deemed to be in violation with most current human resource policy as outlined in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3."

Your position as the Chief Justice (including Associate Justice) of the Student Government Association Supreme Court plays an integral role in serving our students. As a result of your failure to meet the requirements of your position, a vote for termination will be held this Friday at 2:00 pm in the HSC Sky room (5/3/24). Additionally, if applicable, you will be suspended from pay from SGA until the vote occurs. However, you may act in your role as Chief-Justice/Associate Justice without pay.

Your removal from this elected or appointed position will include a piece of legislation that will be presented to the Senate, authored by the remaining supervisors, so the Senate may vote to remove you. Should this removal be denied, you will have the option to continue your work in SGA.

Upon termination, you must arrange a time to return any SGA property to the main office by Friday, May 10th.

We thank you for the time, commitment, and contributions that you have provided to SGA through your position. However, it is important that in the pursuit of providing the best possible experience for our students that our officers meet their expectations.

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: D**

**Author: Organization Oversight Committee**

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**First Reading**

26 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55070  
Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**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. Individual Intellectuals
2. College Republicans of NIU
3. Justice and Sustainability Association
4. Hues Magazine
5. Northern Illinois University Furry Club

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

**New Business**

**Agenda Item:** E

**Author:** Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley

**First Reading**

26 April 2024

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55071**  
**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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**Summary:** A resolution to confirm a Supreme Court Justice

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article V, §3 of the Student Government Association Constitution state the process for the selection and removal of justices; and

WHEREAS, “All justices shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Senate, as vacancies arise. After their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accord with the removal from office procedure described in this Constitution. The Supreme Court shall be composed of five justices. Legislative Branch and Executive officers and staff shall not be eligible to serve on the Supreme Court. Members shall serve so long as they remain students in good standing at NIU”; and

WHEREAS, President Newman has decided to appoint a Justice;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm the appointment of Khardell Phelps as a Justice of the Student Government Association Supreme Court.

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