**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 1 December 2023**

**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, November 31st, 2023.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. From November 10th, 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. SR55022: A resolution to amend the SGA Constitution Removal Process & Voting Policy
10. SR55025: A resolution to amend the Constitution to add a beginning ceremony before each Senate meeting
11. SR55016: A resolution to Select the Spring 2024 Board of Elections
12. SB55007: A Bill To require at least two officers of the executive board for student organizations to attend yearly CODE training.
13. New Business
14. SR55026: A resolution to confirm director appointments
15. SR55027: A bill to update the bylaws based on recommendations from the Organization Oversight committee
16. 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
17. SR55029: A resolution to terminate employment of the current Student Government Association’s Vice President and to remove Vice President Kaylin Lee from office.
18. SB55010: A bill to update the bylaws to change the way write in candidates are handled as well as clean up the formatting and some issues with the elections part of the bylaws.
19. SB55011: A bill to change the way SGA does elections from a First past the post system to a ranked choice system.
20. SR55030: A resolution for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students
21. Good of the Order
22. Announcements
23. 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**   **3 November 2023**

**Author:**  **Clerk Corpuz, Deputy Speaker English**

**Sponsor: Clerk Corpuz, Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55022**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary**: A resolution to amend the SGA Constitution Removal Process & Voting Policy

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, The Current SGA Constitution has a complex removal process; and

WHEREAS, The current SGA Constitution does not reflect the current SGA Bylaws for voting on items pertaining to SGA’s HR Policy; and

WHEREAS, Article IV § 2.B of the Student Government Association Constitution does not require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote for the current HR Policy; and

WHEREAS, Article VII § 1&2 of the Student Government Association Constitution do not reference the current HR Policies for removal of an elected or appointed person; 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 following changes be added to the Student Government Association Constitution:

**ARTICLE IV**

**Section 2. Definition of Votes**

1. All decisions by the Senate or its committees, unless indicated otherwise, shall be decided by a majority vote of those Senators present and voting for or against the proposal on the floor. Those Senators who choose not to vote or abstain shall have their vote recorded but shall not count in the determination of passage or rejection. Vacancies shall not count in the determination of passage.
2. 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. Withdrawal of SGA-recognition from a student organization, permanently or for a specified period of time.
   5. Call for a referendum vote without a student petition.
   6. Overriding a veto.

**ARTICLE VII. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

**Section 1. Process of Removal**

The Senate shall be empowered to remove any officer; senator; SGA representative; justice; student representative appointed or elected by any portion of the Student Body; SGA of the SGA or Speaker of the Senate is being tried, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Senate. ~~The Senate shall try all cases of removal in accordance with the following procedure:~~ The process for removal of any appointed or elected official in SGA is to be followed as written in the human resource policy outlined in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3.

1. ~~Petition for Removal shall be introduced in the Senate by at least seven (7) senators at a Senate meeting. Upon the submission of the Petition the official named shall be considered charged, but not removed.~~
2. ~~The charged official and the Student Government Association's Official Advisor shall immediately be notified by certified, next day post of the charges and the date of the meeting at which the charged official will be tried.~~
3. ~~This hearing shall be held while school is in session, not during exams, and at least seven (7) days after the date of the meeting at which the Petition was delivered to the Senate. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all seats filled shall be necessary for conviction.~~
4. ~~Upon conviction, the charged official shall be considered removed from office and shall be so notified by certified, next day post.~~

**Section 2. Reasons for Removal from Office**

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, ~~and/or~~ criminal behavior, and any other behavior that is deemed to be in violation with the most current human resource policy as outlined in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3.

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

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

**Agenda Item:** B **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:** C20 October 2023

**Author:** Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55016**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to Select the Spring 2024 Board of Elections

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part II, Article I, §5 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “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.”; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws stipulate that the five (5) persons receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws also stipulate that “The two (2) people receiving the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) highest number of votes shall be designated as alternate members of the Board of Elections, to become full members if other members are removed or resign during the election process.”; and

WHEREAS, “The two individuals that the Senate decides to be the alternates for the Board of Elections must be listed in the order in which they will assume the seats if a vacancy occurs. This order should be that the person receiving the 6th highest vote should be given first preference, the person receiving the 7th highest vote should be given second preference.”; and

WHEREAS, “If there is not an Election Commissioner appointed, the Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Chairperson of the Board of Elections. The Senate shall vote, with each Senator having one vote. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the individuals in consideration for the Board of Elections be confirmed as members of the Student Government Association Board of Elections for the Spring 2024 Election.

**Chair of BOE:**

**BOE Members:**

Amaka Onebunne

Stanley Anukwuocha

Cole Hensley

Niko Bereolos

Chris English

**Alternates:**

Eddie Guerrero (1st)

Maria Sofia (2nd)

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

**­­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **D**   **1 December 2023**

**Author:**  **Sergeant at Arms Nikolas Bereolos, Deputy Speaker English, Clerk Corpuz, Senator Guerrero**

**Sponsor: Sergeant at Arms Nikolas Bereolos**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55007**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A Bill To require at least two officers of the executive board for student organizations to attend yearly CODE training.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Previous years student organizations have been required to have at least two officers of their executive board to attend CODE training; and

WHEREAS, CODE training shall be completed once a year to verify all student organizations are being inclusive of all peoples; 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 under Part III, Article II, § III enact that at least two executive board officers of every student organization must complete CODE training each year.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that under Part V, Appendix A the following definition be added, CODE Training is the conversations on diversity and equity

***This act is ordered to take effect next year.***

Appendix:

Section 3

Maintaining Recognized Status

1. All recognized student organizations must complete the Annual Renewal process each fall and the Transition process half-way through the year to maintain recognition. This process is to be facilitated by Student Organization staff.
2. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in Huskie Hub anytime there is a change.
3. Any modifications or changes to the constitution or bylaws that occur outside of the Annual Recognition or Transition Process must be submitted to and approved by the Organization Oversight Committee.
4. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
5. Organizations must have at least two executive board members attend CODE training each year.
   1. Executive board members must be certified to have completed CODE trainings to receive credit

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A** 1 December 2023

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55026**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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 Olivia Newman has appointed Khardell Phelps to serve as Director of Governmental Affairs; 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 Khardell Phelps to serve as Director of Governmental Affairs.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B   **1 December 2023**

**Author: Organization Oversight Committee**

**Sponsor:** **Deputy Speaker English, Clerk Corpuz, Seargent at Arms Bereolos, Senator Guerreo**

**ENROLLED SENATE Bill 55009**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws based on recommendations from the Organization Oversight committee.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, The bylaws should be routinely reviewed by committees; and

WHEREAS, The organization oversight committee has made these suggestions; and

WHEREAS, Implementing these suggestions would help with clarity, responsibility designation, and accuracy of intent; 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

following the Bylaws will be amended to the following in Part III;

**Northern Illinois University**

**Student Government Association**

**Bylaws, Part III**

**Student Organization Policy**

# UPDATED ~~Summer~~Winter 2023

## ARTICLE I

## PURPOSE

The Student Government Association (SGA) is charged with recognizing, assisting, and regulating all student organizations at NIU that are not a project of a particular University department. This policy explains all the responsibilities and benefits of student organizations and the responsibilities of the Student Government Association. The Vice President has primary responsibility for administration of this policy.

## ARTICLE II REQUIREMENTS OF RECOGNITION

To receive and maintain recognition from the Student Government Association, all organizations must meet the requirements outlined in this policy. Student organizations that do not meet these requirements will be ineligible for annual renewal of their recognition and may have their recognition suspended or revoked in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws.

## Section 1

## Constitution and Democratic Procedures

1. All organizations must have their constitution, mission statement, and bylaws on file with the Student Government Association/ NIU’s Student Organization Platform, which must include the organization’s name, purpose(s), requirements for membership, method of officer selection and impeachment proceedings, and ~~a~~the non- discrimination clause. All documents must be up to date~~. If~~ ~~an organization is affiliated with a national organization, then the national constitution, mission~~ ~~statement and bylaws must be submitted in addition to the local organization’s constitution.~~ It is the responsibility of the Vice President, Chairperson of Organization Oversight, and~~/or~~ Director of Organizational Development to assist recognized student organizations and those organizations seeking recognition with creating and updating constitutions, bylaws, and other governing documents required for recognition.
2. The organization’s constitution must guarantee that major decisions are made in a democratic way by the membership or Executive Board at the discretion of the individual organization.

## Section 2

## Membership and Required Positions

1. Every student organization must have at least one (1) advisor
2. Student organizations must have at least five (5) interested members who are NIU Students to receive initial recognition.
3. Student organizations that cannot maintain at least five (5) members registered in NIU’s Student Organization Platform must work with staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.
4. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President. E. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.

F. Every organization shall include the following non-discrimination statement in their constitution:

a. As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX. However, registered student organizations may limit their membership and leadership to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization’s sincerely held beliefs or statement of principles, comply with the organization’s standards of conduct, and further the organization's mission or purpose as defined by the organization. G. The only exceptions to Part F immediately above are as follows:

1. Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
2. Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
3. Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those elected from the constituent groups.
4. A student organization may outline in their constitution a desire to be a restrictive organization, where full membership and full participation is selected by a clearly outlined democratic process. A restrictive organization shall be unable to request any funding from the Student Government Association.

H. Any organization that offers certain privileges or opportunities t to a limited membership must clearly outline in their constitution how the organization’s regular membership is provided with ample opportunity for involvement.

## Section 3

## Maintaining Recognized Status

1. All recognized student organizations must complete the Annual Renewal process each fall and the Transition process half-way through the year to maintain recognition. This process is to be facilitated by Student Organization staff.
2. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU’s Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
3. Any modifications or changes to the constitution or bylaws that occur outside of the Annual Recognition or Transition Process must be submitted to and approved by the Organization Oversight Committee.
4. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.

**ARTICLE III**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

## Section 1

## Officers

1. Each organization must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the president.
2. All officers must be fee-paying students in good standing with the University and the SGA regarding all academic, misconduct, judicial, and student organization funding issues. To hold any officer position, an undergraduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University, a graduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
3. If the cumulative NIU GPA of an elected officer drops below the requirement, they shall be allowed one grace semester to bring it back up. During this semester, they shall retain their position and all its rights and responsibilities. Should an officer’s cumulative NIU GPA fall below the requirement for two consecutive semesters, their officer position shall be revoked. Appeals shall be sent to the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee for consideration of circumstance.

## Section 2

## Advisor

1. The advisor must be a current, full-time, university employee in good standing

with the university and the SGA regarding all misconduct and student organization funding issues.

1. Advisors must sign and accept the advisor agreement each fall during Annual Registration or any time a new advisor is added to an organization.

## ARTICLE IV

## PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNTION

The SGA shall outline an orderly process to assist organizations in obtaining recognition and prevent false or inappropriate groups from receiving recognition. The Vice President, together with the Organization Oversight Committee is charged with overseeing the recognition process. The recognition process consists of the following steps listed below.

1. Recognition Form: All groups seeking recognition must complete an Organization Registration Form on NIU’s Student Organization Platform that consists of the following:
   1. Organization Description: for use by all new organizations as well as returning organizations that wish to change their description.
   2. Organization Officers: for use at the beginning of each academic year any time an officer or faculty advisor changes during the academic year and during Mid-Year Transition.
   3. Faculty/Staff Advisor Agreement: for use when starting an organization and at any time the faculty advisor changes during the following school year.
   4. Governing Documents: including the organization’s constitution, bylaws, and national constitution (if applicable).
2. Organization Oversight Committee Review

The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee. The Organization Oversight Committee will meet with the leader(s) of the organization, review its constitution, and make a recommendation to approve or reject the potential organization to the full Senate. Recommendation of recognition of an organization can be made without a meeting with the leaders of the organization only following approval from both the organization and the Organization Oversight Committee. C. Senate Review

Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Senate will add the item to an upcoming Senate meeting for a vote. Each organization recommended for approval will be discussed and voted on as one business item. Senate can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization. The ~~Speaker of the Senate~~Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization of their full recognition being granted after approval in the senate meeting. Senators must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s recognition. D. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Senate for approval must wait at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of rejection to reapply for recognition. In cases where an organization has lost recognition due to violations of Student Government Association policy and/or Student Code of Conduct and/or has shown a pattern of such behavior, the university may advise on the waiting period for reapplication.

E. Recognition After Cease of Existence

If a recognized student organization either voluntarily or involuntarily disbands or ceases to exist on campus in an official capacity for longer than one academic year the organization must go through the recognition process again.

## ARTICLE V

## DURATION

1. Organizations will be recognized for one (1) year if the organization abides by the regulations set forth within this policy, the Student Organization Handbook, and the policies and procedures of the University.
2. Organization recognition must be renewed each year by completing the appropriate process in NIU’s Student Organization Platform.

## ARTICLE VI

## RECORDS

All recognized organizations and any organization applying for recognition shall make available any records or financial statements requested by any entity within SGA of university staff involved in organization oversight and development.

## ARTICLE VII

## CLASSIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Government Association acknowledges that there are several types of organizations that have different levels of responsibility to the student body, along with different support and resources. Organizations recognized by, or affiliated with, the SGA recognition process are classified as follows:

1. Department Organizations: Department Organizations are student-run but fall under the organizational chart of a department or division. They have a responsibility to serve the entire student body and as such, receive University resources such as full-time staff dedicated to the organization, dedicated space, a larger portion of student fee dollars, etc. These organizations will adhere to the SGA processes and requirements for student organizations wherever possible but must also consider processes relative to being a part of a department or division.
2. Governing Councils: A governing council shall be deemed as any organization in which its principal membership is made up of SGA recognized organizations. These organizations are student-run but fall within the organizational chart of a department or division. They have a responsibility to serve larger, but specific populations of the student body. As such, they receive University resources that may include dedicated staff, priority access to certain University resources, and increased access to funds. These councils have the authority to manage the organizations that fall under them in ways that are appropriate to their purpose to include, but not limited to, required paperwork, attendance, follow all policies, procedures, and expectations of their national organization.
3. Affiliated Student Organizations: Affiliated organizations are student organizations that are strongly affiliated with a department, college, or division. They tend to serve targeted, smaller populations of students affiliated with a major/career, resource center, or other department or division on campus. These organizations often, but not always, have an advisor who has the role mentioned in their job description and they often have access to various resources through their affiliated department, college or division.
4. Sponsored Student Organizations: Sponsored student organizations are student organizations that exist to bring members together around a common cause or interest. Even if topically associated with a college or major, they may not have any affiliation or support from the college. These organizations likely do not receive any additional resources from another area of campus.
5. Sports Clubs: Sports Clubs are student organizations that are competitive and are managed through University Recreation by professional staff. Sports Clubs receive additional departmental support that may include full-time staff support, coaches, funding, access to space and facilities, etc. Due to the nature of Sports Clubs, there are few items that differ greatly between these organizations and others: 1. Members do not pay dues but may need to pay fees to cover the cost of equipment, competitions, uniforms and more.
   1. Organizations must follow all University Recreation policies to be recognized as a Sport Club. These policies may include items related to attendance, forms, reporting, number of members and officers, etc.
   2. Due to competition and practices, Sports Clubs may be exempt from some general student organization policies.

## ARTICLE VIII

## NON-ADHERENCE AND WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION

1. Any complaint regarding student organizations shall follow the process outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
2. If deemed appropriate, recognition may be withdrawn by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.
3. If an organization is suspended or revoked pursuant to the constitution and Bylaws, the Senate shall not grant recognition to a new organization with substantive similarities to the revoked/suspended organization, including but not limited to the mission statement, officers, membership, or affiliation with a larger outside local or national organization.
4. ~~If an organization is suspended or revoked pursuant to the constitution and Bylaws, the Senate shall~~ ~~not grant recognition to a new organization with substantive similarities to the revoked/suspended~~ ~~organization, including but not limited to the mission statement, officers, membership, or affiliation~~ ~~with a larger outside local or national organization.~~

## ARTICLE IX

## OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION

1. All organizations recognized by the Student Government Association are responsible to the Student Government Association.
2. The Student Government Association, together with university staff responsible for organizational development, provide oversight and administration to all organizations recognized by the SGA.

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

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

**Agenda Item:**  **C** **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,  Sttudent 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**

**\_\_\_**

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

\*\* 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:**  **D**   **December 1st, 2023**

**Author:**  **Speaker Hensley, Clerk Corpuz**

**Sponsor:**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55029**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to terminate employment of the current Student Government Association’s Vice President and to remove Vice President Kaylin Lee from office.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Vice President Kaylin Lee has received several warnings pertaining to their responsibilities as Vice President of NIU’s Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Lee has not recorded any office hours and has not fulfilled their responsibilities as Vice President as stated in the SGA Constitution Article III, §2; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Lee has received the previous requirements for termination as stated in the HR policy in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3.B; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Senate must write legislation to remove an SGA officer from office as stated in the HR policy in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3.B;

**Section 3**

**Corrective Action Procedures**

4. Termination shall be a last-resort action resulting in removal from one’s SGA position, delivered in writing, taken by a supervisor upon confirmation of continued violation of SGA policies, failure to uphold the steps of an action plan according to its timeline, or a violation so serious that no corrective action is possible, such as intentional mismanagement of SGA funds. Termination by a supervisor shall result in a loss of pay, when applicable. All terminations must include an exit meeting between the supervisor, SGA officer, and SGA advisor. Supervisors shall author a piece of legislation to be presented to the Senate for a vote of removal from office. Should this legislation fail, the officer may choose to continue working without pay. Officers who receive stipends shall be paid a prorated amount proportional to their time worked.

THEREFORE, Vice President Lee shall be removed from office and will no longer serve as SGA Vice President

***This act is ordered to take immediate effect when the notice of termination is delivered.***

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **E**  **1 December 2023**

**Author:**  **Deputy Speaker English**

**Sponsor:** **Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55010**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to change the way write in candidates are handled as well as clean up the formatting and some issues with the elections part of the bylaws.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, CA’s are students and could be one of the candidates who are running; and

WHEREAS, currently write in candidates must be preregistered; and

WHEREAS, SGA should want itself to be open to as many students as possible; and

WHEREAS, currently write in candidates in order to be counted must be voted through use of only one name; and

WHEREAS, sometime students go by multiple names to multiple people; and

WHEREAS, some students have hard to read handwriting but are still trying to vote for perspective candidates; and

WHEREAS, there are currently some formatting issues including instances or unneeded repeated language in the elections part of the bylaws; and

WHEREAS, this bill attempts to change that elections part of the bylaws; 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 following the Bylaws will be amended to the following in Part II;

**Northern Illinois University**

**Student Government Association**

**Bylaws, Part II**

**Elections Policy**

**UPDATED Summer 2023**

**ARTICLE III**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY**

**Section 1**

**Legislative Qualifications**

1. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:
2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not exceed seventy-five (75) seats.
3. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than twenty (21) seats.
4. Every Senate session should fill the following seats at minimum.
5. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by one student who occupies one (1) seat per college.
6. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy one (1) seat.
7. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy two (2) seats.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. The rest of the seats shall be reserved based on enrollment and housing data, gathered from the division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications from the most current enrollment data done by 31st of January, such that there is one seat for every one thousand (1000) students rounded to the nearest whole number seat.
13. 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.
14. During the spring elections, fifty percent (50%), rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the seats for students residing in university provided housing and 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. The rest of the seats may be filled in the spring elections.
15. All candidates are required to provide proof of residence hall contracts, college affiliation, or resource center affiliation depending on the seat for which they are running. Regarding college seats, ‘proof’ shall be an official document or email received from the school; in the case of university-At-Large, an official document or email from the University. Proof for underrepresented seats shall be an email or letter from the resource center (If there is no resource center for an underrepresented group, then an official email or letter from a student organization representing the group will suffice.) University housing shall provide an official letter or email from the Housing Department~~/CA~~ or official housing contract.
16. Each candidate for a legislative office must have the signatures of fifty (50)~~S~~ fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, Z-ID number, and local phone number. The Board of Elections shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly calling names listed on each candidate’s petition until fourteen (14) or more have been validated. Signatures that have phone numbers that are disconnected or nonexistent shall be considered invalid and shall not count towards the required number of signatures on the petition nor the total amount of required verified signatures. Existing phone numbers that are called but not answered shall not be considered as invalid or validated and can only count towards the total number of signatures required on a petition. Members of the SGA Supreme Court or the Board of Elections may not sign petitions for candidacy.
17. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.
18. Legislative candidates may only form campaigning teams with other legislative candidates. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for executive offices.
19. If an elected or appointed Senator changes their major in a way that also changes their academic college, “they shall have five business days to inform the Speaker of the Senate of this change, and shall provide a letter from both their academic advisor and the new academic college, and” the following procedure shall be implemented:
    * 1. ~~(formatting)~~If there is an available seat within the Senator’s new college, they will be allowed to switch their constituency to that college.
      2. If there is not a seat available in the Senator’s new college, and the Senator can provide proof  of affiliation with an underserved community, and there is an open Underserved Communities seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to Underserved Communities.
      3. If there is not an available seat in the Senator's new college, nor an available “Underserved Communities” seat, but there is an open “University At-Large” seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to University At-Large.
      4. If none of the above options are available, a temporary “University At-Large” seat shall be generated for the Senator to fill and the number of total Senate seats available shall be increased by one (1) for the remainder of the session.
      5. If the final step in this procedure is reached and a temporary At-Large seat is created, but a seat in the Senator’s new academic college becomes available, the temporary At-Large seat shall be dissolved, the number of Senate seats reduced by one (1), and the Senator’s constituency moved into their new Academic College seat as soon as possible.
      6. Other changes to Senate seat constituencies shall not be permitted.

**Section 2**

**EXECUTIVE QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Each candidate for executive office must have the signatures of at least seventy-five (75) fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, Z-ID number, and local phone number. The Board of Elections shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly calling the names listed on each candidate’s petition until twenty (20) or more have been validated. Signatures that have phone numbers that are disconnected or nonexistent shall be considered invalid and shall not count towards the required number of signatures on the petition nor the total amount of required verified signatures. Existing phone numbers that are called but not answered shall not be considered as invalid or validated and can only count towards the total number of signatures required on a petition. Members of the SGA Supreme Court may not sign petitions for candidacy.
2. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.
3. Candidates may only form campaigning teams with other executive candidates running for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for legislative office.

**Section 3**

**Qualifications for All Candidates**

Refer to the SGA Constitution for the most up-to-date qualifications.

1. All candidates for a Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and any other pertinent information to the Student Government Association Board of Elections, allowing the Commissioner to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
2. Candidates for Student Government Association offices must do each of the following prior to campaigning or being placed on the ballot:
3. Attend the candidates' meeting.
4. Receive, complete, and return the registration packet with the petitions
5. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency upon request.
6. Qualify for office.
7. Receive notification from the Board of Elections of eligibility for office.
8. All petitions and all sheets on which candidates for office seek signatures shall include the following:
9. The name of the candidate on whose behalf the petition is being signed in compliance with the appropriate section of the SGA Bylaws.
10. The office the candidate is applying for.
11. All other wording as required/determined by the Board of Elections.
12. The name candidates list on their registration and petition documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear on the petition preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.
13. ~~No door-to-door solicitation of signatures in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director.~~
14. Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with ethical standards that include, but are not limited to, the Northern Illinois University Code of Ethics, for the duration of the elections. Violations of these standards are subject to the sanction policy laid out in Article V Section II and III.
15. Candidates for any SGA office are required to obey all applicable rules. Candidates who fail to qualify under all the rules described herein shall not be considered candidates. They shall not be allowed to campaign for themselves, nor shall they be placed upon the ballot.

**Section 4**

**Write-In Candidates**

1. Spaces must be provided on the ballot for write-in candidates. These spaces must equal the number of available seats being contested. Write-in candidates must submit all requisite forms and documents within forty-eight (48) hours ~~prior to the opening~~ following the closing of the polls.
   * 1. The requisite forms and documents are defined as the following
        1. All candidates for a Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and any other pertinent information to the Student Government Association Board of Elections, allowing the Commissioner to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
        2. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency as needed.
        3. The name candidates list on their registration documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.
2. ~~Write-in candidates shall register one version of their name, which must obey the same rules listed for candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Only this registered name shall be accepted as a vote for the candidate. To be valid, a vote for a write-in candidate must be cast in the correct manner, meaning that the name written on the ballot must be identical in form and spelling to the name the write-in candidate registered.~~
3. If a write-in candidate has not properly registered ~~two (2) calendar days prior to~~ within forty-eight (48) hours following the closing of the election, the votes cast for the candidate will not be counted in the determination of winners for that office even though the ballot itself is still valid. The remaining votes will determine the winner. Any candidate who is not properly registered may not win an election and shall be considered disqualified.
   * 1. Proper registration is defined as having filled out the requisite forms and documents listed in Bylaws Part II Article III Section 4.A.1 as well as
        1. Attend the candidates' meeting.
        2. Qualify for office.
        3. Present the BOE with a petition with the appropriate number of signatures needed for their prospective office unless the candidate has received that number or greater of write in votes.
           1. Petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 3.C for all write in candidates.
           2. In addition petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 1.D and E for legislative write in candidates.
           3. In addition petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 2.A and B for executive write in candidates.
        4. Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with ethical standards that include, but are not limited to, the Northern Illinois University Code of Ethics, for the duration of the elections. Violations of these standards are subject to the sanction policy laid out in Article V Section II and III.
        5. Candidates for any SGA office are required to obey all applicable rules. Candidates who fail to qualify under all the rules described herein shall not be considered candidates.
4. ~~The name that is registered with the Student Government Association Office must appear identical to that written on the ballot with the appropriate spelling. Failure to do so will result in ballots with those inappropriate write-in names not being counted in the determination of winners for that office even though that ballot itself is still valid. The remaining votes will determine the winner. Misspelled, incomplete, and/or illegible names shall not count as votes or count in the determination of winners.~~
5. All write-in votes cast for persons who have registered as write-in candidates will be counted and reported with the election results. A write-in vote cast for a person whose name already appears on the ballot will be counted as a vote for that candidate. Any write-in candidate may win an election if they comply with the registration requirements of the election procedures.

**---------------------------------------------------------**

**ARTICLE VII**

**TABULATION**

**Section 1**

**Tabulation Procedure**

1. After the closing of the polls, the poll worker(s) shall wait for a member of the Board of Elections to arrive, identify themselves, and secure all elections materials and voting stations before leaving.
2. All ballots are to be counted at one location. Ballots are to be counted by the Board of Elections . Ballots may be counted by electronic means.
3. Any executive election candidate whose name appears on the ballot may designate one (1) person to observe any discussion of the validity of ballots. All candidates who shall campaign as a team may choose only one observer to represent the entire ticket. Candidates may not represent themselves during this process. The observer may not be a candidate for any other elected position. Any action by the candidate’s designated observer that disrupts the counting of the ballots will be cause for the observer’s removal and will constitute a campaign violation, which may subject the candidate to disqualification at any time. During the counting of ballots, those present shall be restricted to the Board, except for designated observers.
4. Copies of the voided, official ballot shall be given to the Board of Elections in the weeks prior to the first day of elections for the purpose of inputting the ballot online. If changes are made to the official ballot after this time, copies shall immediately be made available to the Board of Elections .

**Section 2**

**Valid and Invalid Votes and Ballots**

1. Only the following votes shall count in the determination of winners and shall be considered valid votes for the office(s) so affected. All valid votes on the same ballot for other offices shall be counted.
2. A vote for a registered non-disqualified write-in candidate, with the reasonably correct, as decided by a majority vote of the BOE when one member is unable to match the name to a write-in candidate, spelling of the candidate’s name.
3. A vote for a non-disqualified candidate listed on the ballot, even if written in.
4. The following votes shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered invalid votes for the office(s) so affected.
5. Votes for disqualified candidate(s). ~~or~~
6. Votes for unqualified candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office ~~shall not be considered valid~~.
7. ~~A v~~Votes for ~~an~~ unregistered write-in candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office.~~,~~
8. Votes for disqualified write-in candidate(s).~~, or~~
9. Votes for obscene write-in candidate(s) ~~shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered an invalid. vote for all the offices listed on the ballot.~~
10. Student Government Association elections ballots shall allow for the submission of an incomplete ballot. An incomplete ballot has at least one candidate selection or write-in, but not all vote choice options have been exhausted.

**Section 3**

**Invalid Elections**

1. Other than votes and ballots for disqualified candidates who appeared on the ballot, if the total number of invalid ballots in any election is greater than ten (10) percent of the total ballots cast in that election, the entire election will be ruled invalid. Ballots cast for a disqualified candidate will be disregarded for purposes of this Section and will not count as either valid or invalid ballots.
2. An invalidated election must be re-run as a special election within one week of the invalidation.
3. Upon completion of the counting of the ballots, the Board of Elections  shall make a reasonable attempt to contact all candidates, or their official representatives as is feasible to locate at that time and notify them of the results prior to releasing the total to the public.
4. All returns shall immediately be made open to the public when the ballots have been completely tabulated.
5. All ballots and petitions must be accounted for and saved by the Board of Elections  for sixty (60) days. Following that time, they shall be destroyed. The Board of Elections  shall issue a report of the results to the Senate and the President of the SGA.

**Section 4**

**Determination of Winners**

1. The candidate receiving a majority of all legitimate and valid votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then a run-off election for those candidates with the two highest vote totals shall be held.
2. The winners of the Senate seat races shall be decided by the following.
3. The Senate candidates with the most votes within the race for their constituency shall be the winners with the number of open seats being determined by the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B.
4. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.
5. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
6. The Board of Elections  may release the election results to the public as early as ~~on~~ the last day of the election following tabulation if there are no pending appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court or write in candidates needing to be validated.

**Section 5**

**Runoff Election**

1. In the event the initial election results in a tie, a runoff election shall be held. The person 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.
2. The one-day runoff election shall be held a week following the start of the initial election.
3. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **F**  **1 December 2023**

**Author:**  **Deputy Speaker English**

**Sponsor:** **Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55011**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to change the way SGA does elections from a First past the post system to a ranked choice system.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, SGA currently uses a first past the post-election system; and

WHEREAS, first past the post voting systems have a lot of problems; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting systems are of the fairest simple voting systems; 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 following the Bylaws will be amended to the following in Part II;

**Northern Illinois University**

**Student Government Association**

**Bylaws, Part II**

**Elections Policy**

**UPDATED Summer 2023**

**ARTICLE II**

**Section 1**

**Requirement of Neutrality**

1. No member of the Board of Elections shall play an active role in the campaign of any candidate. None of the above-mentioned persons endorse, publicly support, or play an active role in advocating in public for any candidate or referendum subject to election.
2. All SGA officials involved in the Senate Vacancy approval process must make all decisions in a viewpoint- neutral fashion. All candidates shall be judged objectively on their personal merit and character and not on the views of the groups or organizations with which they are affiliated.
3. Any member of the Board of Elections who fails to comply with the rule regarding Public Neutrality or whose misfeasance, malfeasance or incompetence jeopardizes the conduct of an election, will be subject to removal as prescribed herein and in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.
4. When validating candidates’ eligibility or in the consideration of sanctions, Board of Elections members shall abstain from verifying documents, discussion or debate, and voting on those with whom they share or have shared current or past organization affiliation, excluding the SGA.

**Section 2**

**Election Commissioner**

1. To hold the office of Election Commissioner, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
2. Must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students or 3.00 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
3. Shall be paid the same hourly rate as the highest paid executive staff member for each hour worked. No person shall become Election Commissioner who already holds a paid position within the SGA.
4. An undergraduate student must be enrolled for twelve (12) semester hours in the same semester in which they shall serve; all other students must also be enrolled for nine (9) semester hours.
5. When the Senate is in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President for the Spring Election with the approval of the Senate. The Senate shall have oversight authority over the performance of the Election Commissioner.
6. When the Senate is not in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections. The Election Commissioner so appointed will hold office until the Senate can convene. If the President is unable to reach an agreement with the Board as to the appointment of an Election Commissioner, then the Speaker shall appoint the Election Commissioner with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections.
7. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include
8. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
9. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy.
10. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
11. All rulings of the Election Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
12. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) in the weeks preceding the week of Spring Elections.
13. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
14. The Election Commissioner shall only be removed during an election through resignation, the Supreme Court, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
15. The Election Commissioner shall be ineligible to run in any general election or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
16. The Election Commissioner shall have final say on all election proceedings unless a decision is overridden by a majority vote of the Board of Elections or the SGA Supreme Court.

**Section 3**

**Board of Elections**

1. To serve on the Board of Elections, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or be the defendant in any civil or criminal procedures with the University is also a party. The student must also have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. There is no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections.
2. Board of Elections members shall receive a stipend, except for the Election Commissioner. A person who already holds an hourly rate paid position within the Student Government Association is eligible to receive a stipend. No person shall hold more than one Student Government Association stipend position at one time. It shall be up to the discretion of the Election Commissioner to decide on the dollar amount of the stipend each year, with consent from the Senate in the form of a vote. If the Election Commissioner is unable to set this stipend, the Senate shall be empowered to do so by a majority vote. No member of the current Board of Elections may vote on said stipend.
3. When the Senate is in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedure:
4. All persons interested in becoming members of the Board of Elections shall be nominated at a Senate meeting by a member of the Senate. Nominees need not be members of the SGA.
5. Those who shall qualify to hold a position on the Board of Elections shall appear at the same Senate meeting. The Senators shall vote on all candidates for membership on the Board of Elections at the same time. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote. Senators who are being considered for positions on the Board may not vote in the determination of Board members. The vote shall not commence until there are at least five (5) nominees.
6. The five (5) people receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board. If a tie vote occurs, then the Senate shall vote again only to break the tie and decide between those who are tied.
7. The Senate meeting at which members of the Board of Elections are appointed shall be selected at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate with the approval of the Senate.
8. The two (2) people receiving the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) highest number of votes shall be designated as alternate members of the Board of Elections, to become full members if other members are removed or resign during the election process.
9. If there is not an Election Commissioner appointed, the Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Chairperson of the Board of Elections. The Senate shall vote, according to ranked choice voting rules~~with each Senator having one vote~~. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.
10. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
11. The members of the Board of Elections shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate with approval of the President and the Vice President.
12. Authority and duties of the Board of Elections are as follows:
13. The Board of Elections, composed of five (5) members and the Election Commissioner, will oversee the proper administration of all Student Government Association student elections and referenda and perform other duties as set forth herein.
14. The Board of Elections members shall have the authority to issue sanctions to any candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Board of Elections shall also have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
15. The Board of Elections shall have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
16. All rulings of the Board of Elections shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association Office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
17. At its first meeting, the Board of Elections shall nominate and confirm by majority vote a Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Minutes for Board of Elections meetings shall be recorded, but not released publicly until the conclusion of the election season.
18. Quorum for the Board shall consist of three (3) members. Board rulings can only be made when quorum is reached. If the Chair is not present at a meeting, the Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
19. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
20. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
21. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
22. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
23. 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.
24. A member of the Board of Elections shall only be removed during an election, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elections, excluding the Board member in question, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
25. The members of the Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run in any general direction or special election for the term in which the elections occur.

**Section 4**

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING TIMES**

1. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
2. The Election Commissioner will schedule a weekly meeting of the Board to discuss the matters concerning the election.
3. The candidates’ meeting shall be held by the Board of Elections for both Senate and Executive elections. The Board of Elections members shall attend the meetings. The Board shall schedule additional candidate meetings if deemed necessary.
4. The Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election.

**------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**ARTICLE VII**

**TABULATION**

**Section 1**

**Tabulation Procedure**

1. After the closing of the polls, the poll worker(s) shall wait for a member of the Board of Elections to arrive, identify themselves, and secure all elections materials and voting stations before leaving.
2. All ballots are to be counted at one location. Ballots are to be counted by the Board of Elections . Ballots may be counted by electronic means.
3. Any executive election candidate whose name appears on the ballot may designate one (1) person to observe any discussion of the validity of ballots. All candidates who shall campaign as a team may choose only one observer to represent the entire ticket. Candidates may not represent themselves during this process. The observer may not be a candidate for any other elected position. Any action by the candidate’s designated observer that disrupts the counting of the ballots will be cause for the observer’s removal and will constitute a campaign violation, which may subject the candidate to disqualification at any time. During the counting of ballots, those present shall be restricted to the Board, except for designated observers.
4. Copies of the voided, official ballot shall be given to the Board of Elections in the weeks prior to the first day of elections for the purpose of inputting the ballot online. If changes are made to the official ballot after this time, copies shall immediately be made available to the Board of Elections .

**Section 2**

**Valid and Invalid Votes and Ballots**

1. Only the following votes shall count in the determination of winners and shall be considered valid votes for the office(s) so affected. All valid votes on the same ballot for other offices shall be counted.
2. A vote for a registered non-disqualified write-in candidate, with the correct spelling of the candidate’s name.
3. A vote for a non-disqualified candidate listed on the ballot, even if written in.
4. The following votes shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered invalid votes for the office(s) so affected.
5. Votes for disqualified or unqualified candidate(s) shall not be considered valid.
6. A vote for an unregistered, disqualified, or obscene write-in candidate shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered an invalid vote for all the offices listed on the ballot.
7. Student Government Association elections ballots shall allow for the submission of an incomplete ballot. An incomplete ballot has at least one candidate selection or write-in, but not all vote choice options have been exhausted.

**Section 3**

**Invalid Elections**

1. Other than votes and ballots for disqualified candidates who appeared on the ballot, if the total number of invalid ballots in any election is greater than ten (10) percent of the total ballots cast in that election, the entire election will be ruled invalid. Ballots cast for a disqualified candidate will be disregarded for purposes of this Section and will not count as either valid or invalid ballots.
2. An invalidated election must be re-run as a special election within one week of the invalidation.
3. Upon completion of the counting of the ballots, the Board of Elections  shall make a reasonable attempt to contact all candidates, or their official representatives as is feasible to locate at that time and notify them of the results prior to releasing the total to the public.
4. All returns shall immediately be made open to the public when the ballots have been completely tabulated.
5. All ballots and petitions must be accounted for and saved by the Board of Elections  for sixty (60) days. Following that time, they shall be destroyed. The Board of Elections  shall issue a report of the results to the Senate and the President of the SGA.

**Section 4**

**Determination of Winners**

1. The candidate receiving a majority of all legitimate and valid votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then the votes will be allocated as determined by the ranked choices  ~~a run-off election~~ for those candidates until one candidate received a majority. If a tie still persists then a run-off election for the remaining two candidates ~~with the two highest vote totals~~ shall be held.
2. The Senate candidates with the most votes within the race for their constituency as determined by ranked choice voting rules
3. The winners of the Senate seat races shall be decided by the following.
4. The Senate candidate(s) with the most votes within the race for their constituency, as determined by ranked choice voting rules, shall be the winners of those seats. With the number of open seats being determined by the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B.
5. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.
6. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
7. The Board of Elections  may release the election results to the public on the last day of the election following tabulation if there are no pending appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court.

**Section 5**

**Runoff Election**

1. In the event the initial election results in a tie, a runoff election shall be held. The person 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.
2. The one-day runoff election shall be held at most a week following the start of the initial election on a weekday.
3. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

**Section 6**

**Special Election**

1. In the event the initial election did not produce a winner, or the number of Senators fail to meet Fifty Percent (50%) of the Available Seats, a special election shall be held.
2. The one-day special election shall be held on the third Wednesday of April.
3. This should not be confused with Quorum. As a majority of members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum. The number of members shall be determined by the number of Senate seats currently filled.
4. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** G 1 December 2023

**Author:** Muslim Student Association, Arab Student Association

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English, Senator Sofia**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55030**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS**,** Students have approached various senators about feeling unsafe due to the developments in Israel and Palestine ; and,

WHEREAS, SGA’s stated goal is to be the voice for students on campus; and,

WHEREAS, There have been occurrences of connected students being killed[1]; and,

WHEREAS, There have been occurrences of connected people nearby being killed[2]; and,

WHEREAS, SGA has the ability to provide support and educational services,

**THEREFORE,** This resolution condemns any behavior that would invalidate and endanger those who may be grieving due to recent events that have transpired, including those of Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish and/or Israeli origin as well as condemning islamophobia, antisemitism, and overall acts and/or words of hate; and,

**THEREFORE,** NIU SGA will provide campus resources for the Huskie community including but not limited to mental health and educational/informational resources; and,

**THEREFORE,** NIU SGA will support Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, Jewish, Muslim, and allied people according to this resolution.

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

[1] <https://www.reuters.com/world/three-palestinian-students-attending-us-colleges-shot-injured-vermont-2023-11-26/>

[2] <https://apnews.com/article/muslim-boy-killed-chicago-landlord-will-county-5135dea218326d6e639a996564d9369e>