**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, *April 19th, 2024***

**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

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

***Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an*** [***Intent to Speak***](https://cglink.me/2sZ/s54) ***form, no later than 11:59 pm, April 18th, 2024.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
5. From April 12th, 2024

*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. SR55049: A resolution to amend the process of appointing justices
10. SR55050: A resolution to clarify and define selection criteria for supreme court justices
11. SR55054: A resolution to change the amount of time allowed to update the Constitution and Bylaws
12. SR55055: A resolution to ensure the SGA election policy requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority to change
13. SR55056: A resolution to update the definition of bills and resolutions in the SGA Constitution
14. SR55057: A resolution to ensure the SGA Supreme Court follows their Code of Procedure
15. SR55058: A resolution to clarify Article X in the SGA Constitution
16. SR55059: A resolution to update and clarify Article VI Elections of the Constitution
17. SR55060: A resolution to vote for candidates for the 56th session Senate Speaker Election
18. SR55061: A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend if they are receiving a stipend already from SGA
19. SR55062: A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend if they are receiving a stipend already from SGA
20. SR55064: A resolution to require the chief justice to come before senate to explain the suggestion for the update of the bylaws
21. SP55002: A petition to support the founding of an Indigenous Resource Center to fulfill the promises made in the NIU Land Acknowledgement
22. SB55027: To update physical polling places hours and dates open for
23. 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
24. New Business
25. SB55028: A bill to update Article V Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications
26. SB55029:A bill to update Article I Timeline of Spring Elections
27. SB55030: A bill to update Article II Election Commission
28. SB55031: A bill to update Article III Qualifications for Candidacy
29. SB55032: A bill to update Article IV Campaigning Regulations
30. SB55033: A bill to update Article VI Elections Procedure
31. SB55034: A bill to update Article VII Tabulation
32. SB55035: A bill to update Article VIII Expenditure Reporting
33. SB55036: A resolution to update the bylaws to reflect the duties of each directorship underneath the Executive Branch of SGA.
34. SB55037: A resolution to update the bylaws to reflect the standing committees for SGA
35. SR55066: A resolution to recognize student organizations
36. Good of the Order
37. Announcements
38. 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** 05 April 2024

**Author:** Stanley Anukwuocha

**Sponsor:** Stanley Anukwuocha

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55049**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to amend the process of appointing justices

**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 except within one (1) month before and until the conclusion of the SGA election, to avoid biases. After their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accordance 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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve the proposed amendment to the SGA Constitution regarding the appointment of justices, with the added provision to avoid biases during the SGA election period.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **B** 05 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55050**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to clarify and define selection criteria for supreme court justices

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, The Senate should not create the opportunity for the Supreme court not to be able to meet; and

WHEREAS, Article 5 Section 3 of the constitution is currently vague and unclear; and

WHEREAS, Article 5 Section 2 of the constitution is a more fitting place for quorum rules then selection and removal of justices; and

WHEREAS, Part 5 Article II Section 1 of the Bylaws is a more fitting place for Justices bias protections then Selection and Removal of Justices; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein”;

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

**Article 5**

Section 2. Code of Procedure

The rules of the Supreme Court shall be outlined in the Code of Procedure of the Supreme Court. All judicial action must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Procedure. All amendments to the Code of Procedure shall be approved by the Senate and the Supreme Court before going into effect.

Section 3. Selection and Removal of Justices

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.

i. The President may not appoint a Supreme Court Justice who if accepted to the Supreme Court would cause the Supreme Court to have a majority of its justices be in the same organization, excluding SGA.

ii. The Senate may not approve a Supreme Court Justice who if accepted to the Supreme Court would cause the Supreme Court to have a majority of its justices be in the same organization, excluding SGA.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: C**  12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55054**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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**

1. 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.***

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**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** D  12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55055**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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 55th 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.

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

**­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  E 12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55056**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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**

1. 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.
2. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding removing a person from office.
3. A proposed Constitutional Amendment
4. A proposed amendment to the Senate Operating Rules
5. A proposed punishment or expulsion of senators
6. Any proposed appointments ~~shall be considered a proposed resolution~~.
7. 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.~~
8. 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.~~

1. Upon approval by the Senate and signed by the President a proposed bill shall be considered a statue 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.
2. 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,~~
3. 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 First Reading**

**Agenda Item: F**  12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55057**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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**

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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 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.

**­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  G 12April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55058**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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:**  H  **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**

**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 Constitutions 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~~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.***

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**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: I**  12 April 2024

**Author:** Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION SR55060**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to vote for candidates for the 56th session Senate Speaker Election

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, according to the Student Government Association Constitution, “The Speaker shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one-year term of office”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hensley’s term of office is set to expire after May 5th; and

WHEREAS, the Senate must elect a Speaker, and only those who receive a majority vote may be elected to this position; and

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate elect that:

1. Clerk Corpuz
2. Nathan Gonzalez
3. Senator Robinson
4. Chairperson Musgraves

shall be the Speaker for the Student Government Association 56th Session Senate, where they received a majority vote.

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

**­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  J  12 April 2024

**Author:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman

**Sponsor:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Osman

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55061**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

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

**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**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to instruct all new senators of correct constitutional, bylaw, and parliamentary procedures.
4. 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.
5. Appoint Senators to all Senate Committees with the approval of the Senate and shall coordinate such committees as necessary.
6. 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.
7. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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 First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  K  12 April 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55062**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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 soleyly 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:

1. 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
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  L  12 April 2024

**Author:** Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55064**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to require the chief justice to come before senate to explain the suggestion for the update of the bylaws

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Supreme court has made a suggestion to the senate to change their bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the senate should seek to understand the change wanted as best as possible; and

WHEREAS, the senate has the power to call SGA officers before senate to explain decision;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the Chief Justice Elliot Weiskopf be requested to come before senate to explain the courts opinion and suggestions for legislation.

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  **M** 12 April 2024

**Author:** First Nations Native Alliance, Atlas Babcock

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE Petition SP55002**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A petition to support the founding of an Indigenous Resource Center to fulfill the promises made in the NIU Land Acknowledgement.

**Petition:**

To the Office of Dr. Lisa Freeman**,**

In the wake of ongoing discrimination against Indigenous students on NIU campus, by the authority vested in this Senate by the Constitution of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association to submit a petition on behalf of the students of NIU we, the undersigned Senators of the Northern Illinois Student Government Association hereby petition for the creation of an Indigenous Resource Center to combat discrimination against Indigenous students and offer the following charges and specifications:

*Charge:* Indigenous Students, allies, and alumni have reported anti-Indigenous discriminatory language in the classroom.

*Specification 1:* An Indigenous Resource Center would combat the ongoing discrimination within the classroom by providing a space where students, faculty, and staff can come to engage with resources that provide them with more inclusive terms and support the general education of Indigenous social justice issues.

*Specification 2*: Indigenous students face a culture tax, a term coined by Amando Padilla defined as “...the extra burden of service responsibilities placed upon minority faculty and staff to serve as ethnic representatives as unofficial diversity consultants within the university setting.”

*Specification 3:*  An Indigenous Resource Center would remove the burden of serving as “ethnic representatives” by providing a space where staff are paid for this labor, and uneducated students can be referred to the Center if they have questions about Indigenous Peoples.

*Charge*: A lack of follow-through regarding promises stated in the Northern Illinois University Land Acknowledgement.

*Specification 1*: Northern Illinois University has stated in its official Land Acknowledgment that:

“*The four locations of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Naperville, Rockford and Oregon occupy the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples—Niswi-mishkodewinan, also known as the Council of the Three Fires—comprised of the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Odawa. Other Indigenous peoples who call this land home include the Sac and Fox, Kickapoo, Peoria, Miami and Sioux. NIU's occupation of this land is a result of ethnic cleansing and forced relocation of Native Americans in part through the Treaty of St. Louis (1804) and the Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien (1829).*

*We acknowledge the presence and continued vitality of these and other Native communities in our state and Midwest region, as well as throughout the U.S. and Canada. Today, the sovereign Indigenous nations who were forcibly removed from Illinois are located in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Michigan and Wisconsin, among other states. Moreover, one of the largest communities of Native Americans in the Midwest is in the Chicago area.*

*As an academic institution, Northern Illinois University has a responsibility to acknowledge and redress this colonial legacy. To that end, NIU will educate our students, staff, faculty and visitors, as well as the surrounding community, about this history. Furthermore, as part of NIU's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we seek to build respectful and authentic relationships with Native students, faculty, staff and local and relocated Native communities by promoting student access and success, academic research and artistry and community outreach and engagement.”*

*Specification 2*: An Indigenous Resource Center would provide a proper educational space to further teach NIU students, staff, and faculty about Indigenous cultures and histories. This would fulfill the promises made by NIU in their stated responsibility to educate the NIU community.

*Charge*: A lack of follow-through regarding official DEI statements made by the University.

*Specification 1:* The university has committed to supporting equity for all students stating, “*Northern Illinois strives to improve outcomes for all students by identifying and removing barriers that disproportionately hinder the academic achievement and student experience of historically and currently underserved populations*”

*Specification 2:* An Indigenous Resource Center would remove barriers of isolation and lack of community within the NIU Indigenous student population, providing a safe space to gather and celebrate their communities.

*Charge:* Explicitly ignoring the needs of Indigenous students to have their own space on campus.

*Specification 1*: Many other minoritized communities on campus are currently supported by various resource centers including the Center for Black Studies (CBS), Asian American Resource Center (AARC), Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), Latino Resource Center (LRC), and the Undocu-Center.

*Specification 2:* Establishing an Indigenous Resource Center would be in line with the current precedent set by existing Resource Centers.

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  N   **12 April 2024**

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55027**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   To update physical polling places hours and dates open for**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, This bill will update this section of the bylaws to reflect the dates the election takes place on

WHEREAS,  This bill helps updates the days and times that physical polling places will be open for

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

Article VI

Section 2

Physical and Written Campaign Materials

1. The Board of Elections may choose to set up voting stations on campus.
2. On the morning of each Election Day, the Board shall travel to each voting station. The Board shall ensure that all campaign materials and persons are removed from the voting station. The Board shall also ensure that all proper procedures are followed for the duration of the day.
3. Voting stations shall consist of a link to online voting so voters may use their own devices, and information about the election and candidates. The SGA shall also share this link on its website, social media, and/or any other applicable communication avenues.
4. On the days of elections, banners identifying the buildings labeled as voting stations are to be clearly displayed on the outside of the location and nearest to the voting area. These banners must be neutral and only advocate that an SGA-sponsored election is taking place inside. The Student Government Association logo must appear on all banners or signs displayed at the voting stations. All banners and signs will remain visible and displayed during the duration of the Election Day and will be removed at the end of the final voting day.
5. The voting stations shall be open for ~~two~~three consecutive days between the hours of 9:00 am and ~~6:00~~5:00 pm.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: O**   **12 April 2024**

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

**Sponsor:** Senator RobinsonDeputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55065**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**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 shall be at a minimum of five hours; and

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

THEREFORE, the office hours of SGA labeled within the bylaws shall be changed with an immediate effect of changes made with the office hours within the contracts.

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

**6825426New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A**  19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55028**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   A bill to update Article V Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, there should be a way for the BOE to address small scale violations without needing to resort to

sanctions; and

WHEREAS, warnings better allow the BOE to help candidates learn and avoid confusion; and

WHEREAS, warnings also due to being less severe can be handed out quicker likely leading to a quicker time for the

unwanted behavior to stop; and

WHEREAS, warnings can develop into something more severe if they are repeated; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should be a check on the Election Commissioner’s power; and

WHEREAS, the BOE received multiple comments from candidates as well as the supreme court suggesting a more

clear breakdown of what constituted as a sanction; and

 WHEREAS, the some violations currently garner a sanction but it is felt that this is too severe; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should set a clear timeline for the election; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be able to still make sense even if renumbered; and

WHEREAS, the BOE received multiple comments from candidates as well as the supreme court suggesting a more

clear breakdown of what constituted as a sanction; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be numbered in a way that makes sense

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE V

**WARNINGS, SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION**

**Section 1**

**Warnings**

1. A warning is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a lighter penalty. All warnings must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
2. Warnings may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate’s behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.
3. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any warning(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the warning(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written warning(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been warned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original warning(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional warnings as soon as possible.
4. A candidate may receive up to three (3) warnings before it becomes a sanction. If a candidate receives a second warning for the same type of violation, it is immediately eligible to be a sanction upon approval from the Board of Elections. When a sanction is given from warnings, the number of warnings the candidate has resets after the sanction is issued.
5. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are warnable offenses:
   1. Minor ethical violations
   2. Improper posting campaign material
   3. Minor violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws
   4. Dissemination of campaign material(s) that directly link to methods of voting.
   5. Inappropriate usage of electronic platforms by candidate(s) or ticket(s).
   6. Failure to allow the Election Commissioner to follow, subscribe, etc. any social media accounts used for the purpose of campaigning.
   7. Failure to follow tabling procedure in Residence Halls.
   8. Issues connecting to endorsements.
6. Prior to Election Day
   1. No warning issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.
   2. Whenever a warning is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the warning in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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 as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body.
   3. All campaign material stamped by the Student Involvement office and displayed in a manner that violates University Posting Policy may be removed by the Board of Elections.
   4. Unstamped posted material will be confiscated by the Board of Elections and kept on file. In the event of an inordinate amount, as determined by the Board, of material in violation of these regulations is collected, the candidate(s) involved will be required to remove all of their posted material campus-wide for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but no more than forty-eighty (48) hours. The candidate(s) involved will be granted four (4) hours after notification of the warning in which to comply.
   5. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to warning by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue warnings.
7. Warnings on Election Day
   1. On the day(s) of an election, no warning issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall cover more than one (1) building or location.
   2. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to accruing two (2) warnings for each offense by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, the Board of Elections are required to issue warnings.

**Section ~~1~~2**

**Sanctions**

1. A sanction is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a penalty. All sanctions must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
2. Sanctions may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate’s behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.
3. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any sanction(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the sanction(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written sanction(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been sanctioned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original sanction(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional sanctions as soon as possible.
4. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are sanctionable offenses:
   1. Multiple warning
   2. Violation of previous sanctions or warnings
   3. Severe breaches of ethical conduct
   4. Campaigning within 100 feet of the building containing voting stations on election day(s)
   5. Campaigning on the Huskie Bus line during election day(s)
   6. Disruption of any class
   7. Failure to submit accurate campaign personnel forms.
   8. Severe violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws
   9. A candidate(s) selected observer’s disruption of tabulation procedure.
   10. Failure to confirm that the candidate(s) or ticket(s) have not spent or received any goods or services.
   11. Cause of damages sustained by property by campaign materials.
   12. Door to door solicitation of votes in residence halls.
5. Prior to Election Day
   1. No sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than forty-eight (48) hours and/or cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.
   2. Whenever a sanction is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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 as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body.
   3. Candidate(s) found to be acting in variance with campaign regulations as described in the Bylaws shall be subject to the following actions:
      1. For the first offense, the Board of Elections shall forbid the candidate(s) from campaigning in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours. For each additional offense, the candidate may be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) hours but not more than seventy-two (72) hours.
   4. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to sanction by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue sanctions.
6. Sanctions on Election Day
   1. On the day(s) of an election, no sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than four (4) hours and/or cover more than one (1) building or location. The penalty for multiple sanctions may accumulate a series of sanctions that may last beyond the time limits indicated in this paragraph or cover multiple locations.
   2. No campaigning will be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of any voting station on Election Day(s). This shall include any physical, written, or verbal campaigning. No electronic campaigning shall be allowed that allows a campaign to define a set area, including, but not limited to, a flyer that advocates for a candidate or their campaign within 100 feet of a voting station.
      1. Candidates and/or their workers who violate this regulation may not be allowed to distribute literature in the vicinity of the building that contains the voting station where the violation occurred for the remainder of the election.
      2. For any further violation of this regulation after the first, the candidate and/or their workers shall not be allowed to distribute literature anywhere on campus for the remainder of the election.
      3. No candidate shall be sanctioned for a violation of this section unless it is shown by a substantial weight of the evidence that the candidate or someone working on behalf of the candidate was the violator. The candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this section simply because someone possessed their campaign material inside of a voting place.
   3. Campaigning is forbidden on any Huskie Bus Line, stationary or in motion during the elections. A violation of this may result in a sanction left up to the discretion of the Board of Elections. Bulletin boards on Huskie Line Buses may be used for posting campaign material.

**~~Section 2~~**

**~~Sanctions Prior to Election Day~~**

1. ~~No sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than forty-eight (48) hours and/or cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.~~
2. ~~Whenever a sanction is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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.~~
3. ~~All campaign material stamped by the Student Involvement office and displayed in a manner that violates University Posting Policy may be removed by the Board of Elections, and the candidate(s) to whom the material belong(s) will be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of not less than twenty-four~~

~~(24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours.~~

1. ~~Unstamped posted material will be confiscated by the Board of Elections and kept on file. In the event of an inordinate amount, as determined by the Board, of material in violation of these regulations is collected, the candidate(s) involved will be required to remove all of their posted material campus-wide for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but no more than forty-eighty (48) hours. The candidate(s) involved will be granted four (4) hours after notification of the sanction in which to comply.~~
2. ~~Candidate(s) found to be acting in variance with campaign regulations as described in the Bylaws shall be subject to the following actions:~~
   1. ~~For the first offense, the Board of Elections shall forbid the candidate(s) from campaigning in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours. For each additional offense, the candidate may be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) hours but not more than seventy-two (72) hours.~~
3. ~~Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to sanction by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue sanctions.~~

**~~Section 3~~**

**~~Sanctions on Election Day~~**

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

**Section ~~4~~3**

**Filing an Appeal to the Board**

1. Prior to Election Day: All appeals to the Board must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the notice of action or decision of the Board of Elections. Such time of action or decision must be written on the hard copy of the decision or action posted in the SGA office. All appeals will be in writing and will be directed to the Election Commissioner who will, within four (4) hours of receipt of the appeal, notify the Board of Elections Members, and other persons who it may be reasonably assumed are relevant parties to the appeal, of both the filing of the appeal and the time at which a hearing will be held on the appeal.
   1. The Board of Elections will hear and rule on any appeal within three (3) days, except on election days or before elections start whichever is sooner.
2. On Election Day: Appeals may be made in person at the meetings of the Board, and no written appeal is necessary. Each day of elections and prior to reviewing any election results, the Board shall meet at the end of each election period and hear all pending requests for appeals. No appeal may be made to the Board after two (2) hours after the close of the voting ~~stations~~ on the last day of the election, unless entirely new information has been discovered and the person making the appeal could not be properly expected to have known about the information.
   1. During an appeal, all elections will proceed as scheduled unless the Board concludes that the conduct of a fair election has been rendered impossible due to a violation(s) of the election procedures.
   2. In the event of an appeal, the Election Commissioner will impound all ballots and seal all election results pending the exhaustion of all appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court.
3. The Board of Elections may uphold, reverse, or modify any action or decision of the Election Commissioner appealed to the Board.
4. Submitting an appeal to the SGA Supreme Court: Submission of the appeal must be made pursuant to the procedures set forth by the Supreme Court's Code of Procedure or in its silence by the Chief Justice. Copies may be obtained from the SGA main office.

**Section ~~5~~4**

**Disqualifications**

1. Each day of the election, the Board shall meet immediately following the time of the closing of the voting stations as laid out in SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Elections Procedure: Voting Stations and all actions necessary to secure the voting process. These meetings shall serve as the only point on each Election Day in which disqualification as a punishment shall be determined and issued. The Board shall hear all cases and issue in writing all sanctions and/or punishments it deems necessary prior to reporting tabulated votes.
2. In addition to the sanctions stated herein, the Board of Elections shall disqualify a candidate at any ~~time~~ date before, during or after an election upon commission by the candidate or person(s) acting on behalf of the candidate of one or more of the following: five (5) or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures before election day or three (3) or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures on election day(s).
3. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are disqualifiable offenses:
   1. Any fraud relating to the election,
   2. ~~including, but not limited to,~~ Altering or destroying voting machines,
   3. Buying votes,
   4. Intimidating other candidates or voters, or
   5. Repeated interference with another candidate’s campaign.
   6. Should a candidate accrue expenditures exceeding a total of $2500.
   7. Extreme violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws
   8. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the Election Commissioner
   9. A candidate(s) or ticket(s) who is found to have falsified or omitted any Financial Disclosures.
   10. ~~If the candidate(s) or campaign personnel are caught~~ Interfering with another candidate’s campaign~~, the applicable sanctions, or even disqualification from the race entirely, will be levied upon the interfering candidate(s).~~
4. A note to disqualify a candidate from an election shall require three (3) of the five (5) members of the board to agree in writing.
5. ~~Should a candidate accrue expenditures exceeding a total of $2500, they will be subject to disqualification.~~

In the event a candidate is disqualified, the candidate will not be allowed to assume office and any votes cast for them will not be counted and will be reported as disqualified votes. A disqualified candidate will be disqualified for the entirety of the election for which they ran for office, including special or run-off elections. Sanctions and punishments, including disqualification of a candidate, will remain in effect pending the outcome of any appeals.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B 19 April 2024

**Author:** Board of Elections

**Sponsor:** Seargent at Arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55029**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   A bill to update Article I Timeline of Spring Elections**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, there should not be a “2-tiered timeline” for candidates to be put on the ballot; and

WHEREAS,  the bylaws should set a clear timeline for the election; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws as written currently are slightly ambiguous regarding the timeline of the elections when

appeals are pending; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have

the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE I

**TIMELINE OF SPRING ELECTIONS**

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

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  C 19 April 2024

**Author:** Board of Elections

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55030**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   A bill to update Article II Election Commission**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, each article should be named; and

WHEREAS,  there was a new section added to sanctions, appeals, and disqualification; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should set a clear timeline for the election; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be consistent with their academic requirements; and

WHEREAS, the bills the senate passes should be consistent with previous ones passed; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be able to still make sense even if renumbered; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should be more transparent with their decisions around elections; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should never be able to run in an election they are administering; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should make and effort to record for posterity all meetings; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE II

**Election Commission**

**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:
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
   3. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include
   1. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
   2. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy.
   3. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue warnings and sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
   4. 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.
   5. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) ~~in the~~at least one (1) week preceding the week of Spring Elections.
   6. The authority to issue warnings and sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
5. 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.
6. The Election Commissioner shall be ineligible to run in any general election or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
7. 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~~50 for undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students 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:
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
   3. 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.
   4. 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.
   5. 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.
   6. 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. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.
4. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
   1. 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.
5. Authority and duties of the Board of Elections are as follows:
   1. 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.
   2. The Board of Elections members shall have the authority to issue warnings and 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.
   3. 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.
   4. 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.
   5. 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.
   6. 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.
   7. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
   8. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
   9. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined ~~in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.~~ in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Warning, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
   10. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
   11. 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.
   12. The Board of Elections will send out an email to the student body at the end of each election day about any official decision reached by the Board of Elections.
6. 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.
7. The members of the Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run in any general ~~direction~~ election, runoff election, or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
8. The Board of Elections shall create a video, audio, and transcript of all meetings.

**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~~.~~, runoff election, or special election.
5. The Board of Elections will meet until results are released as stated in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Timeline of Spring Elections.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  D 19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55031**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   A bill to update Article III Qualifications for Candidacy**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, ticket rules apply to all candidates; and

WHEREAS, the order of the bylaws should make logical sense; and

WHEREAS,  the current bylaws as written have the write in candidate qualifications after the qualification for all

candidates implying that they do not need to follow those requirements; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should clearly identify what prospective candidates need to do; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be able to still make sense even if renumbered; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE III

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY

## Section 1

## Legislative Qualifications

1. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:
   1. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not exceed seventy-five (75) seats.
   2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than twenty (21) seats.
   3. Every Senate session should fill the following seats at minimum.
      1. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by one student who occupies one (1) seat per college.
      2. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy one (1) seat.
      3. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy two (2) seats.
      4. Underserved student communities shall occupy seven (7) seats and shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies, with one to be allocated to a Graduate student.
      5. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy four (4) seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy these seats.
   4. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing underserved communities.
   5. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing the university at large.
   6. 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.
   7. All questions and disputes regarding the seat status of any candidate or student shall be directed to the Election Commissioner. Decisions of the Election Commissioner on the disputes referenced immediately above may be appealed to the Board of Elections.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Each candidate for a legislative office must have the signatures of fifty (50) 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.
5. 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.
6. ~~Legislative candidates may only form campaigning teamstickets with other legislative candidates. Candidates are prohibited from forming teamstickets with candidates running for executive offices.~~
7. 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:
8. If there is an available seat within the Senator’s new college, they will be allowed to switch

their constituency to that college.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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 teamstickets with other executive candidates running for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee. Candidates are prohibited from forming teamstickets with candidates running for legislative office.~~

## Section 3

## 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 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. If a write-in candidate has not properly registered 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.
3. 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.

## Section ~~3~~4

## 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:
   1. Attend the candidates' meeting.
   2. Receive, complete, and return the registration packet with the petitions
   3. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency upon request.
   4. Qualify for office.
   5. Receive notification from the Board of Elections of eligibility for office.
   6. Provide a list of campaign personnel.
3. All petitions and all sheets on which candidates for office seek signatures shall include the following:
   1. The name of the candidate on whose behalf the petition is being signed in compliance with the appropriate section of the SGA Bylaws.
   2. The office the candidate is applying for.
   3. All other wording as required/determined by the Board of Elections.
4. 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.
5. 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.~~SGA Bylaws: Elections Policy: Campaigning Regulations as well as Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
6. 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.
7. Candidates may only form tickets with legislative candidates if they are running for a legislative position or with executive candidates if they are running as an executive candidate.

## ~~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 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. ~~If a write-in candidate has not properly registered 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.~~
3. ~~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.~~

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  E 19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55032**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update Article IV Campaigning Regulations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the regulations regarding campaign should be as clear as possible; and

WHEREAS,  the BOE has received multiple comment suggesting changes to campaigning in residence halls; and

WHEREAS,  the BOE has received multiple comment suggesting changes to campaigning materials linking directly to

the ballot; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should be able to act immediately in some circumstances; and

WHEREAS, needing to wait for a quorum of the BOE to meet can sometimes diminish their ability to ensure a

smooth and fair election; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should be a check on the Election Commissioner’s power; and

WHEREAS, a candidate should not be punished for something they were told was ok but ultimately the BOE

overruled the Election Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, ultimately candidates must follow poster policy which is subject to change; and

WHEREAS, learning should be one of the greatest objectives of the students of NIU and the SGA should reflect that;

And

WHEREAS, the BOE should be able to access all materials utilized for campaign including social media; and

WHEREAS, sometimes there is unapproved campaign material posted that the BOE can not see due to a restricted

account; and

WHEREAS, it should be clear that the campaign personal form must be sent to the BOE; and

WHEREAS, there should be some way for third parties to support candidates without the candidates receiving a

sanction or warning; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have

the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE IV

## CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

**Section 1**

**Campaigning**

1. Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes physical and written campaign materials, electronic campaigning, campaign personnel, and verbal campaigning.
2. All campaigning in Residence Halls must follow the NIU Housing Handbook Rules and Procedures.
3. No campaign material(s) may directly link to methods of voting.

**Section 2**

**Physical and Written Campaign Materials**

1. Physical and written campaign materials shall be defined as any written or tangible materials to be disseminated among voters that display support or opposition for a candidate or ticket.
2. All physical and written campaign materials must be filed with the ~~Board of Elections~~Election Commissioner and cannot be distributed without the prior approval of the ~~Board of Elections~~Election Commissioner. Printed campaign materials must be visibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and Approved by the ~~Board of Elections~~Election Commissioner before any material is posted or distributed.
3. The Board of Elections may overturn the Election Commissioner’s decision any violations done by any candidates during the time period after the Election Commissioners approval but before the Board of Elections overturn shall not be counted for any of the violations highlighted in the SGA bylaws: Election Policy: Campaigning Regulation as well as Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualification.
4. In the case of yard signs or similar objects, the office of Student Involvement must approve of the content, and the University Grounds Department must approve the location of the posting when applicable. A color photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.
5. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
6. ~~No campaign material shall be allowed where it may physically deface or destroy property, such as posted materials, stickers or any other form of self-adhesive materials, buttons, and any other material deemed potentially destructive by the Board of Elections. Adhesives must be approved by the Board of Elections prior to use. In questions of defacement or removability, a candidate or designee's successive demonstrations of removability in all instances shall be sufficient.~~ All campaign materials that are posted must follow the NIU Poster Policy.
7. Any damages sustained by property, University or otherwise, shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate(s). Damages may include excessive litter of campaign materials as determined by the Board of Elections, and the individuals in violation shall be held liable for any damages caused which require professional repair.
8. Campaigning may not take place in university ~~classrooms~~academic buildings on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including, but not limited to, posting, or passing out campaign materials.
9. No campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries, except for posting materials on public bulletin boards.
10. On Election Day, no items may be given out to potential voters
11. Any violation of this policy, shall be considered “buying votes” and subject to the appropriate punishment

**Section 3**

**Electronic Campaigning**

1. Electronic campaigning shall be defined as any form of non-verbal campaigning accessible using electronic devices, such as social media platforms, emails, or instant messaging.
2. Virtual campaign materials shall follow the same procedures of approval as the physical and written campaign materials.
3. The Board of Elections shall decide questions of appropriate usage of electronic platforms. Inappropriate usage includes personal attacks or defamation of character.
4. All social media accounts created for campaigning must allow the Election Commissioner to follow, subscribe, etc.

**Section 4**

**Verbal Campaigning**

1. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.
2. No door-to-door solicitation of votes in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director. Those in violation of this regulation may be forbidden from campaigning in that residence hall for a period of not less than 48 hours.
3. To campaign in Residence Halls, candidates must request a table to verbal campaign.
4. Verbal campaigning may not take place in university ~~classrooms~~academic buildings on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including speeches. No verbal campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries.

**Section 5**

**Campaign Personnel**

1. Campaign personnel shall be defined as any individual or organization actively working to further the campaign with or without the express consent of the candidate(s), except for the situations listed out in SGA Bylaws: Elections Bylaws: Campaigning Regulations: Endorsements
2. Candidates must disclose the involvement of active personnel in campaign efforts, such as a campaign manager or team, to the Board of Elections.
3. Failure to submit updated Campaign Personnel Form must~~shall~~ be subjected to sanctions by the Board of Elections,
4. Candidates are responsible for the behavior and actions of personnel and are responsible for ensuring an appropriate and respectful campaign.

**Section 6**

**Endorsements**

1. The Election Commissioner must be informed of any third party who makes materials that are in favor or against a candidate or ticket.
2. The Election Commissioner can approve or deny this material as if it were campaign material, they must then inform the candidate or ticket of the material as well as the Board of Elections within twelve (12) hours.

**Section ~~6~~7**

**Violations**

1. All candidates in violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws may be subject to the sanctions and punishments contained therein. They may also be sanctioned or punished up to and including disqualification from the election.
2. All campaign regulations shall apply to all candidates, including write-in candidates. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the ~~Board of Elections~~Election Commissioner shall be disqualified from election to office and from holding office.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  F 19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55033**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update Article VI Elections Procedure

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, candidates should not be punished for mistakes made by the BOE; and

WHEREAS,  the BOE as a collective should decide who staffs the votings stations as multiple people have more connections then one person; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be able to still make sense even if renumbered; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## ARTICLE VI

## ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

**Section 1**

**Voter Eligibility**

1. Voter eligibility for any student wishing to vote must have an official Z-ID number and password on file with Northern Illinois University and/or whatever else shall be determined by the Board of Elections to prove student registration to have access to the online ballot. The stated criteria for valid ballots shall be clearly posted at all voting stations as well as the online ballot form. All disputes or questions concerning voter eligibility shall be directed to the Board of Elections.
2. Any eligible student wishing to vote must simply access a voting station or an internet capable device to access their ballot.

**Section 2**

**Voting Stations**

1. The Board of Elections may choose to set up voting stations on campus.
2. On the morning of each Election Day, the Board shall travel to each voting station. The Board shall ensure that all campaign materials and persons are removed from the voting station. Failure by the Board to remove posters shall not result in a campaign violation to the candidate(s) or ticket(s) who posted the materials. The Board shall also ensure that all proper procedures are followed for the duration of the day.
3. Voting stations shall consist of a link to online voting so voters may use their own devices, and information about the election and candidates. The SGA shall also share this link on its website, social media, and/or any other applicable communication avenues.
4. On the days of elections, banners identifying the buildings labeled as voting stations are to be clearly displayed on the outside of the location and nearest to the voting area. These banners must be neutral and only advocate that an SGA-sponsored election is taking place inside. The Student Government Association logo must appear on all banners or signs displayed at the voting stations. All banners and signs will remain visible and displayed during the duration of the Election Day and will be removed at the end of the final voting day.
5. The voting stations shall be open for two consecutive days between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.
6. The Board of Elections shall provide the voting information at each voting station.
7. The ~~Election Commissioner~~Board of Elections will be charged with the responsibility of disseminating poll workers amongst voting stations. One (1) poll worker will be assigned to each voting station at all times during the election. Candidates running in the election may not serve as poll workers.
   1. Voting stations are to remain open at all times during the hours designated herein unless closed for good and sufficient cause by authority of the Election Commissioner.
   2. In the event a voting station is closed, written notice will be provided of the time the said voting station will reopen, if known, and of the location(s) of other voting stations where students may cast their votes. If at any time the volunteer cannot be present at a voting station, it shall be temporarily closed.
   3. In the case of either of the above instances, the Election Commissioner is required to file an official written report stating the reasons for the temporary closure or impoundment within four (4) hours of its occurrence.
8. A voting station may be impounded at any time by authority of the Election Commissioner for good and sufficient cause.
9. Each voter shall be eligible to vote for up to, but not exceeding:
   1. One (1) Executive candidate for each office.
   2. Senate candidates running to represent their chosen constituencies, not to exceed the number of Senate seats as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws: ~~Part II Article III, §1.A-B~~Election Policy: Qualifications for Candidacy.

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.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  G 19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55034**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update Article VII Tabulation

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be consistent in its language; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be clear with what violations lead to; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be able to still make sense even if renumbered; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should not needlessly repeat itself; and

WHEREAS, the ability to throw out a vote should not ever be possible to be done by a single person; and

WHEREAS, there is currently slight ambiguity regarding when to declare an invalid election;

WHEREAS, the bylaws should not be ambiguous; and

WHEREAS, the election policy should clearly state the type of voting to be used; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should make logical sense when read; and

WHEREAS, currently the bylaws as written have results announcements under the invalid elections section; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

## 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~~ticket 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 sanction~~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.
   1. 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.
   2. A vote for a non-disqualified candidate listed on the ballot, even if written in.
2. The following votes shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered invalid votes for the office(s) so affected.
   1. Votes for disqualified candidate(s).
   2. ~~Votes for unqualified candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office.~~
   3. Votes for unregistered write-in candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office.
   4. Votes for disqualified write-in candidate(s).
   5. Votes for obscene, as decided by a majority vote of the BOE, write-in candidate(s).
3. 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 completely 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.~~
6. ~~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 as dictated by rank choice voting. If no candidate shall receive a simple majority in the first round, then the votes will be allocated as determined by the rank~~ed~~ing for those candidates until one candidate received a majority. If a tie still persists then a run-off election for the remaining two candidates shall be held.
2. The winners of the Senate seat races shall be decided by the following.
   1. 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.
   2. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.
3. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
4. All financial records shall immediately be made open to the public when the ballots have been completely tabulated.
5. 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.
6. The Board of Elections may release the election results to the public as early as 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.
7. The Board of Elections shall issue a report of the results to the Senate and the President of the SGA.
8. 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.

**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~~SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Election Procedure, 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.
   1. 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.
3. Refer to ~~Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures~~SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Election Procedure, for information on how to run the election.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  H 19 April 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55035**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update Article VIII Expenditure Reporting

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current treasurer of the SGA as well as student legal services has suggested to have no minimum

amount required to report financial disclosers; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be clear about what violations to election policy are; and

WHEREAS, there should be a standardized form candidates should use for reporting; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should be clear about what to do in the case that a candidate has not spent any funds; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws should allow for some flexibility with the type of form being submitted; and

WHEREAS, the timeline of financial reporting should be clear; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

**ARTICLE VIII**

**EXPENDITURE REPORTING**

**Section 1**

**Requirement to Disclose**

1. Candidates shall be required to disclose of any and all campaign expenditures/contributions that ~~exceed a total of $25 for candidates for Senate and a total of $50 for candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee.~~ A ticket has the same campaign disclosure procedures and limits as a single candidate. All candidates ~~who exceed the threshold~~ shall be required to keep a record of all campaign expenditures and provide proof of those expenditures. This report can come from a ticket and/or a candidate and shall be turned in to the Board of Elections before the start of the election.
2. Financial disclosure reports must include at minimum the name of the contributing organization or individual and the amount contributed. This includes personal contributions.
3. All candidates shall keep records of all donated goods and services along with the fair market value of those services that shall include as the minimum requirements, name of contributing organization or individual, type of donated goods and services, printed goods, and value of donated goods and services.
4. The spending limit for all campaign expenditures shall be no more than the amount of $2,500.
5. ~~Failure to report expenditures shall be subjected to sanctions by the Board of Elections .~~

**Section 2**

**Financial Disclosures**

1. The method and format of all financial disclosure shall be a signed spreadsheet that includes amount, purpose, and date of purchases.
   * If a candidate has not spent or received any financial goods or services, they shall still provide a signed spreadsheet stating that.
2. Any alternative disclosures may be accepted by the Board of Elections, at the discretion of the Board of Elections with the approval of the Student Government Association Treasurer. If the Treasurer is a candidate in the same election, then the Deputy Treasurer will be required to approve these disclosures. If the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are both candidates themselves, then the Board of Elections will be required to approve these alternative disclosure forms.
3. Prior to the start of elections, a~~A~~ll candidates shall disclose each expense and/or donation to the Board of Elections biweekly.
4. A ~~final~~ financial report ~~shall~~must be submitted by the open of polls on the first date of polling, and it shall include a full account of all campaign expenses, a full disclosure of all donated funds, services and materials, and copies of all receipts and financial records associated with the campaign.
5. A final financial report must be submitted by the close of polls on the last date of polling, and it shall include a full account of all campaign expenses, a full disclosure of all donated funds, services and materials, and copies of all receipts and financial records associated with the campaign.
6. Any candidate, or ticket, who is found to have falsified or omitted any information relating to this article shall be immediately disqualified for all offices in which the candidate, or ticket, are a candidate(s) for.

**Section 3**

**Public Reporting**

1. The Election Commissioner, with the guidance of the Student Government Association Treasurer, shall make the financial records of each campaign public before any election results are announced.
2. The Election Commissioner shall create a final financial report of all campaigns that shall be documented by the Student Government Association Historian for public review. The report shall include the total amount of election expenses from the ticket and/or candidate, a financial report of each ticket and/or candidate, and a record of any financial violation.

**This act will go into effect at the start of the 56th session**

**­­­****New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  I   **April 19th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Hensley, Clerk Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley, Clerk Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55036**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to update the bylaws to reflect the duties of each directorship underneath the Executive Branch of SGA.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws have directorships that are not currently filled;

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws can have consolidated directorships into certain positions to reduce unnecessary directorships;

WHEREAS, the directorships and the responsibilities that have been removed are relocated into other directorships based on location;

WHEREAS, the Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs is now the Director of Campus and Environmental Affairs:

WHEREAS, consolidating certain directors allows for more responsibilities for directors to participate in and have various projects to work on over the entire session;

WHEREAS, directors did not have a consolidated position that required them to work on something throughout the entire session;

WHEREAS, directors that were vacant all semester can now have someone to fill the position in the next session;

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the bylaws be changed to the following:

**Section 4**

**Student Government Association Cabinet**

1. The President appoints the Cabinet, which exists for the purpose of assisting the President in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. The SGA Cabinet shall consist of the President, Chief of Staff, and all paid Directors in the Executive Branch. The President may add the other elected members of the Executive Branch to the cabinet as members.
2. All Directors shall be appointed by the President (or Vice President at the discretion of the President and confirmed by the Senate. No SGA official, besides officers elected through the spring elections, shall be paid without being confirmed by the Senate. Upon election in the spring, the President-elect shall have the ability to appoint members of the cabinet for the following session. The Senate in session at the time of a cabinet appointment shall conduct a confirmation hearing and vote. The President shall make every effort to fill cabinet vacancies as they arise. If a position remains vacant for more than eight (8) weeks while the Senate is in session, the President shall submit a written rationale to the Senate that addresses their plan to find a qualified applicant for the position. Directorship applications will close when there are six (6) Senate meetings remaining in the Senate session and no more applicants will be heard by the Senate, except for appointments for the following session made by the President-elect.
3. The Cabinet shall be managed by the Chief of Staff and shall report to the President. All Cabinet members, regardless of their position:
4. Shall attend University functions where SGA attendance is needed at the direction of the President.
5. Shall assist in the transition of any new staff as needed.
6. Shall maintain scheduled office hours as set by the Chief of Staff.
7. Shall keep office hours, defined as work conducted during the normal business hours of the Student Government Association.
8. Shall participate in workshops, trainings, and retreats as directed by the President.
9. Shall work and hold office hours when the Senate is not regularly meeting, such as between semesters, as directed by the President. These work periods shall not be exempt from expectations to produce weekly staff reports.
10. Shall attend weekly staff meetings, prepare weekly written staff reports to be given to the Chief of Staff  to be placed on the SGA website, and present a minimum of one (1)  report to the Senate each month either in writing or in person. In the event the Director cannot attend a Senate meeting, the Rules and Procedures Committee and the Chief of Staff must approve the written report prior to their absence.
11. Shall perform other tasks as specified by the President.
12. May appoint a committee or volunteers, with the approval of the President, to assist in the execution of the duties. If given specific duties and hold office hours, volunteers may be appointed by the Director as a Deputy Director with the approval of the President. These individuals are not members of the Cabinet, will not receive pay, and are to be supervised by the Director.
13. Graduate assistants shall be eligible to apply for positions in the Executive Cabinet. If hired, they shall receive a comparable University graduate assistant stipend.
14. The Chief of Staff, working under the direction of the President, is responsible for acting as the Student Government Association’s chief administrative officer with duties including oversight of the executive cabinet and staff, office maintenance, and assisting the President. The Chief of Staff shall
15. Provide oversight, direction, and management to the executive staff by conducting weekly staff meetings, coordinating the overall activities of the Cabinet, assigning tasks, collecting weekly staff reports, assigning staff members Senate meetings to attend, and meeting bi-weekly with individual staff members one on one.
16. Assist the President in the execution of the duties; this may include responding to inquiries made to the President.
17. Assist the President in appointing students to serve on university committees and coordinate oversight of these appointments.
18. Assist the President in staffing University events where SGA representation is needed, including but not limited to open houses.
19. Assist the President in coordinating staff evaluations for Senate review.
20. Assist the President in preparing the Executive Cabinet for Senate review and approval.
21. Act as a liaison among the President, Vice President, Chief Justice and Speaker of the Senate to ensure that all legislation is signed and submitted to appropriate parties.
22. Coordinate with the Student Government Association Office Manager to ensure staff are provided access to computers, office supplies, and the copy machine and that the SGA office is presentable and aesthetically pleasing.
23. Coordinate and keep track of all SGA inventories, including, but not limited to, SGA computers, cameras, printers, fax machines, laptops, and chairs.
24. Summarize the weekly staff reports into a weekly report to present to the President.
25. Update the Student Government Association staff manual annually.
26. ~~The Director of Academic Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for monitoring and making recommendations for changes in university academic policy and serving as liaison to the Faculty Senate and all student advisory committees. The Director of Academic Affairs shall~~
27. ~~Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to the Faculty Senate and attend meetings regularly.~~
28. ~~Coordinate the Student Government Association representatives on all academic university committees and meet with student representatives monthly.~~
29. ~~Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all college councils and departments’ student advisory committee and assist in the establishment of such committees in departments that currently do not have one.~~
30. ~~Monitor university academic policy and recommend changes in the policy as appropriate.~~
31. ~~Serve on the University Council and coordinate the Student Government Association representation on the council by facilitating communication among all student members.~~
32. ~~Receive reports from students representing the Student Government Association on academic university committees and provide summaries to the Chief of Staff and President.~~
33. ~~Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate University Services Oversight Committee.~~
34. ~~Act as liaison to relevant University academic offices and student programs which may include, but is not limited to, the following:~~
35. ~~University Honors Program~~
36. ~~CHANCE Program~~
37. ~~Engaged Learning~~
38. ~~Tutoring Services~~
39. ~~Business Passport~~
40. ~~Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL)~~
41. ~~Orientation and First Year Programs/First Year Success Series (FYSS)~~
42. The Director of Athletics and Recreation, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for serving as the senior student liaison to Intercollegiate Athletics. The Director of Athletics and Recreation shall:
43. Serve on the university’s Athletic Board and coordinate additional Student Government Association representatives on the board.
44. Serve as the Student Government Association senior liaison to the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics to increase game day experiences and attendance at NIU home events.
45. Serve on the Sports Club Council through Campus Recreation.
46. Serve on the External Affairs subcommittee of the Athletics Board.
47. Attend regular weekly meetings with Athletics’ marketing staff.
48. Coordinate and host Huskie Pride Day to increase school spirit and participation in athletic events.
49. ~~The Director of Governmental Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for all off campus and external relations for the Student Government Association, including community, state, and national relationships. The Director of Governmental Affairs shall~~
50. ~~Serve as the Student Government Association’s voting representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s Student Advisory Committee and represent the interests of the students of Northern Illinois University to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.~~
51. ~~Working with the Senate Legislative Director, monitor all state and federal legislation pertaining to higher education and maintain relationships with appropriate legislators and executive officers.~~
52. ~~Maintain relations with student governments across the state, the Mid-American Conference, and the nation as appropriate and any other state or national organization.~~
53. ~~Monitor all city policy that pertains to the students of Northern Illinois University. The director shall maintain relations with City of DeKalb officials including the Mayor, Aldermen, and the City Manager.~~
54. ~~Maintain relations with community organizations and units of government as necessary including the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, the County of DeKalb, and the NIU Student Government Affairs Work Group.~~
55. ~~Work with the DeKalb registrar to host at least one voter registration drive during every semester in which there is an election. Registration drives during semesters in which there is not an election are to be held at the discretion of the Director of Governmental Affairs.~~
56. ~~Promote student voting in all local, state, and federal elections. In addition, secure at least one on campus voting site for public use to better serve disenfranchised or disconnected students and community members.~~
57. ~~Ensure full SGA support and participation in campaigns such as the Democracy Challenge, Get Out the Vote Campaign, and all other initiatives to increase election participation.~~
58. ~~Hold at least one nonpartisan meet and greet with local city and county officials, and state representatives to increase political awareness on campus and build a relationship. In order for SGA to remain neutral, this program shall always remain nonpartisan to give each party equal platform.~~
59. ~~Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures Committee~~
60. ~~Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.~~
61. The Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs, working the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for monitoring university policies pertaining to Greek life on campus, assisting Greek student groups in the development of their organizations, serving as the liaison to the umbrella Greek organizations, providing recommendations on all issues affecting students’ quality of life, including housing, financial services, safety, healthcare, and other support services. The Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs shall
62. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC), Pan Hellenic Association (PHA), and the United Greek Council (UGC) student organizations.
63. Monitor university policy affecting Greek student groups and make recommendations to amend current regulations as appropriate.
64. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to the appropriate Greek Affairs university staff in the Student Involvement and Leadership Development Office. Conduct bimonthly meetings with appropriate Fraternity and Sorority Life staff.
65. Facilitate communication between the leadership of the Greek community and officials from the City of DeKalb pertaining to issues affecting the Greek Row area.
66. ~~Work with the leadership of Greek organizations to assist them in securing adequately maintained and financed housing for Greek organizations.~~
67. Sit in all council president meetings to identify issues and collaborate to resolve them.
68. ~~Coordinate one event between all councils each semester to build community and relations between the councils and their chapters.~~
69. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Life and Greek Affairs Senate Committee.
70. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all college councils and departments’ student advisory committee and assist in the establishment of such committees in departments that currently do not have one.
71. Monitor university academic policy and recommend changes in the policy as appropriate.
72. Serve on the University Council and coordinate the Student Government Association representation on the council by facilitating communication among all student members.
73. Receive reports from students representing the Student Government Association on academic university committees and provide summaries to the Chief of Staff and President.
74. Act as liaison to relevant University academic offices and student programs which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
75. University Honors Program
76. CHANCE Program
77. Engaged Learning
78. Tutoring Services
79. Business Passport
80. Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL)
81. Orientation and First Year Programs/First Year Success Series (FYSS)
82. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Student Life and Greek Affairs Committee.
83. Serve as Secretary of the Student Life Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
84. The Director of Organizational Development shall work under the direction of the Vice President and is responsible for assisting recognized student organizations in the development of outreach activities, publicity, and fundraising. The Director of Organizational Development shall
85. Provide media relations training to students and student organizations, including the utilization of NIU’s Student Organization Platform and conducting interviews.
86. Knowledge about all university policies affecting student organizations including but not limited to poster policy, booking a room, and the Student Government Association financial policies.
87. Attend the Student Government Association mandatory organizational meetings and provide relevant presentations as requested by the Student Government Association Vice President.
88. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in preparation and dissemination of a Student Organization handbook that will include applicable policies and advice.
89. Advise recognized student groups on recruitment and retention techniques, leadership development opportunities, event planning, and programming.
90. Advise student groups on how to secure funding including advice on Student Government Association funding, CAB mid-level, fundraising, and corporate donations.
91. Advise student organizations on Student Government Association web policy, aid in developing web sites, and assist in the use of the university event calendar.
92. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee.
93. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President to assure the new student organization Constitutions are in accordance with the requirements as defined within the Student Government Association bylaws.
94. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in facilitating an organizational fair.
95. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee.
96. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
97. The Director of Public Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff and shall be responsible for communicating, on behalf of the Student Government Association, to the students of Northern Illinois University and ascertaining the concerns of the campus community. The Director of Public Affairs shall:
98. Direct communications for the Student Government Association by conducting social media promotion of the fellow Director’s events, cabinet initiatives, and University initiatives.
99. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all media, including but not limited to the Northern Star, Daily Chronicle, and Midweek.
100. Monitor relevant news sources and report to the Chief of Staff any items that are of interest.
101. Coordinate promotional materials for all SGA initiatives with the President and Vice President.
102. ~~Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in facilitating an organizational fair.~~
103. Serve as the Student Government Association’s special events officer and organize any relevant events, as well as working with EPS and various campus offices to promote events.
104. Work with the election commissioner to set up the annual SGA Executive debate.
105. Work with the President to order and disseminate SGA promotional material to enhance and bring awareness to the SGA.
106. Draft and disseminate press releases on behalf of the Executive Cabinet.
107. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Public Affairs Committee
108. Serve as Secretary of the Public Affairs Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
109. Assist in the coordination of the annual SGA Meet and Greet.
110. Coordinate the annual Student Choice Awards in the spring semester.
111. Serve on the Student Conduct Board and the social events committee.
112. ~~The Director of Student Life, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for monitoring and providing recommendations on all issues affecting students’ quality of life, including housing, financial services, safety, healthcare, and other support services.~~
113. ~~Monitor and act as the SGA liaison to university offices relating to financial services (including the Bursar’s Office and Office of Student Financial Aid), Housing and Dining, offices affecting the safety and security of the campus (including Judicial Affairs and University Police), and all campus support services (including University Health Services, Students’ Legal Assistance, Commuter Non-Traditional Student Office, and Campus Child Care).~~
114. ~~Act as the SGA liaison to the Residence Hall Association by regularly attending RHA meetings.~~
115. ~~Assist in the coordination of the annual SGA Meet and Greet.~~
116. ~~Coordinate the annual Student Choice Awards in the spring semester.~~
117. ~~Serve on the Student Conduct Board and the social events committee.~~
118. ~~Serve on the Homecoming Steering Committee.~~
119. ~~Serve in any capacity as needed for the Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards each year directed by Student Involvement.~~
120. ~~Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Campus Life and Greek Affairs Committee.~~
121. ~~Serve as Secretary of the Student Life Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.~~
122. The Director of ~~Community Engagement~~ Campus and Environmental Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for all communication, coordination, support, and work dealing with related items on behalf of the Student Government Association. The Director of ~~Community Engagement~~ Campus and Environmental Affairs shall
123. Be responsible for the coordination of environmental service projects each semester in office.
124. Support and collaborate with the University environmental groups for programming, advising, guidance, and accountability.
125. Oversee all recycling campaigns on campus, including assisting with Department and organization initiatives.
126. Serve on the NIU Green Team
127. Work with the University for the Study of the environment, sustainability, and energy to promote green initiatives for the University to enact.
128. Advocate for greener alternatives on campus to the University Administration, including offering suggestions to the University Administration on behalf of the Student Government Association to improve the university’s environmental initiatives and include students in this process.
129. Collaborate with the University Administration and student body to help create a campus sustainability plan, including collaboration with all green student organizations to minimize campus waste and make the University as environmentally efficient as possible.
130. Collaborate with the ~~Director of Governmental Affairs~~ Senate Legislative Director bring any campus initiative to the City of DeKalb and bring initiatives found in the city’s Sustainability Master Plan or discussed in the Citizen’s Environmental Commission back to campus.
131. Oversee Earth Week, beginning the Monday before Earth Day.
132. Serve as non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Campus and Senate Environmental Affairs Committee.
133. Serve as Secretary of the Campus and Environmental Affairs Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
134. Collaborate with SGA Senate Community Service Director to provide opportunities for staff to engage in community service and community building events.
135. Monitor all city policy that pertains to the students of Northern Illinois University. The director shall maintain relations with City of DeKalb officials including the Mayor, Aldermen, and the City Manager.
136. Maintain relations with community organizations and units of government as necessary including the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, the County of DeKalb, and the NIU Student Government Affairs Work Group.
137. Be concerned with all aspects regarding on-campus living, including but not limited to: housing and residential services, parking, building improvements/recommendations, and basic overall improvements to campus
138. Assist the President to coordinate SGA representation on the Campus Parking Committee.
139. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for promoting a diverse campus culture by encouraging cultural programming, ensuring support services are provided to underrepresented individuals, and monitoring policies that affect minorities. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall
140. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all cultural student organizations.
141. Promote cultural programming and encourage joint programming across cultural organizations.
142. Act as the Student Government Association’s liaison to campus support services for underrepresented students including, but not limited to, the Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Disability Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services, Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Undocumented Student Support Office.
143. Monitor and provide recommendations regarding university policies affecting minority members of the university community including the recruitment and retention of minority students, staff, and faculty.
144. Organize and chair a committee consisting of representatives from all recognized cultural student organizations to facilitate proposals to improve the quality of life for minorities on campus.
145. Serve on the Unity in Diversity Steering Committee as the Student Government Association representative.
146. Coordinate Student Government Association representation on the Presidential Commissions on the status of minorities.
147. Research and recommend major culture-related policy changes to the University via the Student Government Association Senate.
148. Serve on the Affirmative Action and Diversity Resources Committee.
149. Attend and complete all CODE, Title IX, Ally, and POWER (People’s Organizing Weekend Empowerment Retreat) trainings, including but not limited to LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) and Undocumented Student Ally training. Encourage all SGA staff to attend and complete all CODE, Title IX, Ally, and POWER trainings, including but not limited to LGBTQ and Undocumented Student Ally training.
150. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.
151. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.

***This act is ordered to take effect at the start of the 56th session.***

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  J   **April 19th, 2024**

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

**Sponsor:** **Speaker Hensley, Clerk Corpuz**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55037**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to update the bylaws to reflect the standing committees for SGA

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws need to reflect the standing committees towards the change of Directors;

WHEREAS, the Senate Committees should change the Committee on Campus Life and Greek Affairs to the Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs;

WHEREAS, this allows the committee to focus on the student aspect of life on campus and include Greek Affairs as a form of student life;

WHEREAS, the Senate Committees should change the Committee on Environmental Affairs to the Committee on Campus Life and Environmental Affairs;

WHEREAS, this allows the committee to focus on the campus aspect and focus on improving the physical campus;

WHEREAS, this separation allows for the directorships to be consolidated and for the committees to have responsibilities throughout the entire session;

WHEREAS, some committees do not have any projects to focus on during certain times of the school year;

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate

shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the bylaws be changed to the following:

**Section 4**

**Senate Standing Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

Standing committees shall have a total of up to nine (9) members, including the chair and the vice-chair. The SGA Senate shall have the following standing committees:

1. Committee on ~~Campus~~ Student Life and Greek Affairs
2. The Committee on ~~Campus~~ Student and Greek Affairs shall be concerned with developing recommendations on making this institution a more desirable one to attend. This committee shall be responsible for the advancement of the University in all areas except those that are the duty of another standing committee, including university services and policies.
3. ~~The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of commuter students and any other matter that relates to commuter students.~~
4. ~~The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of residents of this campus and any other matter that relates to residents’ needs~~.
5. The Committee shall be concerned about the overall improvement of Student Life on campus via Student Involvement.
6. The Committee shall be concerned about the overall monitoring of university academic policies and procedures.
7. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of Greek students and the residential life on Greek Row.
8. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinion of the committee members: Director of Student Life, Director of Athletics and Recreation, and Director of Greek Affairs.
9. The Committee shall be concerned with the academic life of students and improvement of the academic policies that affect students.
10. ~~The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:~~
11. ~~Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and  Residential Services)~~
12. ~~ResTech~~
13. ~~Campus Child Care~~
14. ~~Recreation and Wellness~~
15. ~~Career Services~~
16. ~~Counseling and Consultation Services~~
17. ~~Couple and Family Therapy Clinic~~
18. ~~Health Services~~
19. ~~Office of the Ombudsperson~~
20. ~~Students’ Legal Assistance~~
21. ~~Campus Dining~~
22. ~~Campus Activities Board~~
23. ~~University Writing Center~~
24. ~~Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)~~
25. ~~Grounds~~
26. ~~University Libraries~~
27. ~~Tutoring~~
28. ~~Student Involvement and Leadership Development~~
29. ~~Student Employment~~
30. ~~Financial Aid Office~~
31. ~~Office of the Bursar~~
32. ~~Study Abroad Office~~
33. ~~Huskie Safe Line Service~~
34. Committee on Rules and Procedures
35. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall be concerned with the proper management of the Student Government Association, the University, and/or their subdivisions. The Committee shall review and recommend revision of any procedures, guidelines, rules, or legislation of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Committee.
36. The Committee shall also be concerned with legislation establishing penalties for violation of university regulations, including judicial penalties.
37. The Committee shall be concerned with enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules. Those matters relating to student government management, including review of all executive appointments subject to Senate approval, are the responsibility of this Committee. The Committee shall also view all candidates presented to the Senate to fill Senate and Supreme Court vacancies based on past, present, and future contributions to the Student Government Association and the student body as well as review all resolutions to be proposed to the Senate for the proper form according to the Senate’s Operating Rules.
38. The Committee shall be concerned with the services provided to the student body by the Student Government Association and shall see that these services are maintained at their highest levels of excellence. It will also provide legislative oversight for all Student Government Association services.
39. The Committee shall ensure efficient communication is maintained among all bodies of the Student Government Association.
40. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: All SGA Directors.
41. Committee on Public Affairs
42. The committee shall assist the Director of Public Affairs in publicizing the SGA and its initiatives.
43. The committee shall design a proposal for an annual information campaign to educate the student body about the services and programs offered or supported by the Student Government Association. The information will be sent to the President of the SGA for review, modification, and consent prior to implementation by the Director of Public Affairs. The proposal must include cost estimates of the entire plan and its parts.
44. The committee shall plan and execute at least one informational campaign each year that is geared toward recruiting Senators-at-large to fill vacant seats when necessary. Informational campaign(s) must aim to recruit a diverse group of students to reflect the student body. Campaign(s) must be submitted to the Speaker for final review prior to implementation and must not interfere with spring elections.
45. The committee shall plan and implement community service projects for the Student Government Association to participate in.
46. The committee shall plan, implement, or aid in projects that help inform and educate the student body about diversity and inclusivity.
47. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Public Affairs
48. Committee on ~~Campus Life and~~ Environmental Affairs
49. The Committee shall be concerned with the improvement of environmental quality on campus as well as contributions to environmental initiatives put forth by the University or the Student Government Association.
50. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of commuter students and any other matter that relates to commuter students.
51. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of residents of this campus and any other matter that relates to residents’ needs.
52. The Committee shall assist the Director of ~~Community Engagement~~ Campus Life and Environmental Affairs in their initiatives and objectives, especially in regard to communication with organizations.
53. The Committee shall plan and implement a program aimed at educating students about environmental issues with assistance from the Director of ~~Community Engagement~~ Campus Life and Environmental Affairs. This program shall consist of at least one event each semester and must be educational in nature. One event must fall under the purview of Earth Week.
54. The Committee shall attempt to bring environmental and sustainability issues to the attention of campus administrators and encourage their participation in student-initiated changes.
55. The Committee shall serve as representatives for the Director of Environmental Affairs should they not be able to attend committee meetings as listed in the duties.
56. The Committee shall cooperate with existing environmental student organizations to assist and further agendas regarding sustainability.
57. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Community Engagement and Environmental Affairs.
58. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:
59. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and  Residential Services)
60. ResTech
61. Campus Child Care
62. Recreation and Wellness
63. Career Services
64. Counseling and Consultation Services
65. Couple and Family Therapy Clinic
66. Health Services
67. Office of the Ombudsperson
68. Students’ Legal Assistance
69. Campus Dining
70. Campus Activities Board
71. University Writing Center
72. Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)
73. Grounds
74. University Libraries
75. Tutoring
76. Student Involvement and Leadership Development
77. Student Employment
78. Financial Aid Office
79. Office of the Bursar
80. Study Abroad Office
81. Huskie Safe Line Service
82. Committee on Organization Oversight
83. The Committee on Organization Oversight shall be concerned with the oversight of student organization functions, including but not limited to: recognition, constitution and bylaw amendments, serving on organization committees, etc. The Organization Oversight Committee will report to the senate on matters regarding student organization procedures, concerns, approvals, etc. One (1) university staff member from the Division of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide further guidance to the committee when needed.
84. The committee shall also be concerned with having at least one (1) member sit on each the University On-Campus Events Committee, Student Organization Advisory Board, and Leadership Awards Planning Team to stay updated on current student organization operations within the university.
85. The committee shall also be concerned with being the first step in student organization conflict resolution prior to university staff that handles organizational development followed by the Student Government Association Supreme Court.
86. The committee shall also be concerned with providing primary approval of new/returning student organizations and referring approved organizations to the Student Government Association Senate.
87. The committee shall also be concerned with reviewing any constitution and bylaws updates for student organizations and provide approval to said updates for student organizations.
88. The committee shall also be concerned with making student organization policy recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
89. The committee shall also be concerned with working with the Vice President and the Director of Organizational Development to successfully complete the Annual Renewal Process.
90. Members of the Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting temporary recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting temporary recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s temporary recognition.
91. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Organizational Development.
92. Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
93. The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall be concerned with the collaboration of campus resource centers, underserved student communities, and any initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion put forth by the Student Government Association.
94. The Committee shall assist the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their initiatives and objectives, especially regarding their communication with the campus resource centers.
95. The Committee will work directly with the resource centers to attend their events and support student initiatives.
96. The Committee shall work to fill all vacant Underserved Student Senate seats.
97. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
98. The non-exclusive authority of the Committee will be understood to include:

* Student Conduct
* Disability Resource Center
* Military and Veteran Services
* Center for Black Studies
* Latino Resource Center
* Asian American Resource Center
* Gender and Sexuality Resource Center
* CHANCE Program
* Campus Child Care
* Recreation
* Career Services
* Financial Aid Office
* Underserved Student Organizations

***This act is ordered to take effect at the start of the 56th Session***

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: K** 19 April 2024

**Author:**  Organization Oversight Committee

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55066**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to recognize student organizations.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Organization Oversight Committee has granted the below student organizations temporary recognition and;

WHEREAS, the Senate has the Responsibility to approve of official recognition for student organizations;``

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby grant official Student Government Association to;

1. Graduate Student Association
2. Black Student Nurses Organization

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