**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, *April 5th, 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 4th, 2024.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
5. From March 29th, 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. SB55024: To clarify what is considered as a campaign violation
10. SB55025: To add the Supreme Court Code of Procedure to the SGA Bylaws
11. New Business
12. SR55049: A resolution to amend the process of appointing justices
13. SR55050: A resolution to clarify and define selection criteria for supreme court justices
14. SR55051: A bill to allocate 2/3rds of the remaining funds from Executive funding to supplemental funding
15. SR55052: A resolution to recognize student organizations
16. Announcements
17. 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  29 March 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55024**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   To clarify what is considered as a campaign violation**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, This bill will allow for what is allowed to use for campaigning

WHEREAS,  This bill helps clarify what could be seen as a campaign violation.

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

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 and cannot be distributed without the prior approval of the Board of Elections. Printed campaign materials must be visibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and Approved by the Board of Elections before any material is posted or distributed.
3. 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 - 33 - photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.
4. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including, but not limited to, posting, or passing out campaign materials.
8. No campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries, except for posting materials on public bulletin boards.
9. No Campaigns shall give out items outside of the items approved by the Election Commissioner and Board of Elections. This shall include water bottles, candy, soda, or any physical item not approved by the Election Commissioner or Board of Elections.

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

**­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B  29 March 2024

**Author:** Seargent at arms Bereolos, Deputy Speaker Chris English, Speaker Cole Hensley

**Sponsor:** Seargent at arms Bereolos

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55025**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:   To add the Supreme Court Code of Procedure to the SGA Bylaws**

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, This allows for all of the SGA procedures and rules to be on one document

WHEREAS, This allows for documentation on the SGA to be available in one space and updated as need be

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

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

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

Part V

Appendix B

Supreme Court Code of Procedure

1. Timeline
   1. A complaint is considered filed with the Supreme Court when it is delivered to the NIU Student Government Association Office Manager or Advisor.
   2. The Student Government Association (SGA) Supreme Court must notify parties involved in the complaint within 24 hours of the complaint being filed.
      1. Notification may take place via US postal service, telephone, email, or being placed in an appropriate mailbox within the SGA Office.
   3. After being notified by the SGA Supreme Court, parties named as respondents may file a written answer to the complaint within 72 hours of being notified.
      1. A written response must be filed with the SGA Office Manager or Advisor or may be filed electronically with the Chief Justice.
      2. Responses filed after the 72-hour time frame will not be considered submitted in a timely manner and will not be considered.
   4. The Court can hold a hearing any time after the deadline to submit a response has lapsed.
      1. Hearings will take place at the discretion of the Chief Justice or with the agreement of three Justices but must have three members present to conduct business.
         1. Parties to the hearing need not be present for the hearing to take place.
   5. At any time a complaint, response, and rules or rulings of the Supreme Court must be made available and photocopied or emailed, at the expense of the SGA, to any interested party.
2. Procedure of the Hearing
   1. 1. Members of the Court
      1. At least three members of the Court must be present to conduct business.
      2. An individual(s) Justice’s objectivity may be questioned with regards to a particular case. All arguments shall be presented in writing prior to or at the beginning of the hearing. A vote of confidence of at least two of the remaining Justices is required before the Justice in question may participate in the hearing and vote on the case, unless there are fewer than two remaining Justices in which case the remaining Justice must vote confidence.
      3. The Chief Justice shall run all proceedings of the Court.
      4. If the Chief Justice and Acting Chief Justice have recused themselves from hearing a case or if their objectivity has been questioned and they are unable to hear a case, then the associate Justice with the most seniority shall assume the duties of Acting Chief Justice.
      5. In the absence of the Clerk of the Court or the Clerk’s inability to serve the Chief Justice shall appoint an acting Clerk of the Court.
         1. The acting Clerk of the Court shall fulfill the duties of the Clerk of the Court and the term shall last until the court is adjourned.
   2. 2. Order of Business
      1. The Hearing shall be conducted in the following order:
         1. Court shall be called to order by the Chief Justice.
         2. Roll Call of the Justices present.
         3. Introduction of Petitioner
            1. The Chief Justice shall ask the Petitioner to introduce themselves to the court.
            2. Petitioner may represent themselves or may have an advocate do it on their behalf.

An advocate must be a full-time fee-paying student.

* + - * 1. If petitioner or advocate is not present the Chief Justice shall state the petitioner’s name.
        2. The petitioner need not be present for the hearing to commence.
      1. iv. Introduction of Respondents
         1. The Chief Justice shall ask the Respondent to introduce themselves to the court.
         2. Respondent may represent themselves or may have an advocate do it on their behalf.

An advocate must be a full-time fee-paying student.

* + - * 1. If respondents or advocate is not present the Chief Justice shall state the respondent’s name.
        2. The respondent need not be present for the hearing to commence.
      1. v. Reading of Complaint by Chief Justice
         1. The Chief Justice will read the complaint to the court.
      2. vi. Reading of Response by Chief Justice
         1. The Chief Justice will read the response to the court.
         2. If no response was submitted in a timely manner the Chief Justice will let the Court know and it shall be reflected in the record.
      3. vii. Oral Argument by Petitioner
         1. The petitioner or their advocate shall have no more than ten (10) minutes to argue in favor of their position.

Petitioner will be timed by the Clerk of the Court.

Petitioner may reserve up to three (3) minutes of their time for rebuttal purposes.

Petitioner will be notified by the Clerk of the Court when they have three (3) minutes remaining.

* + - * 1. Any Justice can interrupt the oral argument at any point to ask a question of the presenter.
        2. If petitioner or advocate are not present at the hearing no oral argument will be heard and the decision will be made solely on the written complaint.
        3. No witnesses may be called.
      1. Oral Argument by Respondent
         1. The respondent or their advocate shall have no more than ten (10) minutes to argue in favor of their position.

Respondent will be timed by the Clerk of the Court.

Respondent is not allowed rebuttal time.

* + - * 1. Any Justice can interrupt the oral argument at any point to ask a question of the presenter.
        2. If Respondent or advocate are not present at the hearing no oral argument will be heard and the decision will be made solely on the written response.

If no written response has been submitted the Court shall rule solely on the petitioner’s written complaint and oral presentation.

* + - * 1. No witnesses may be called.
      1. ix. Rebuttal by Petitioner if Requested
         1. If requested the petitioner has no more than three (3) minutes to rebut the arguments of the respondent.
         2. Justices may ask questions at any point during the rebuttal.
      2. x. Deliberation by Justices
         1. Justices shall recess to a private room to deliberate on the outcome of the hearing.
         2. Justices can vote in favor, against, or abstain on the ruling.
         3. A majority of Justices will determine the outcome.
         4. If the voting results in a tie, the decision being appealed shall stand.
      3. xi. Announcement of the Court Ruling
         1. The Court will reconvene and announce its decision(s).
         2. A copy of the Court’s decision will be made available to all interested parties in the SGA office within one (1) business day of the hearing.
         3. The Court’s majority decision shall be recorded in writing after the decision is made. The minority opinion may also be recorded, but it is voluntary.

If a written opinion is issued it must also be available to all interested parties in the SGA office.

1. Governing Documents Review Process
   1. The Supreme Court shall review the SGA governing documents on an annual basis. This review shall be completed by October 1st of each year and may take place when school is not in session, such as during summer break. The Court shall convene at least once before this date.
   2. The Supreme Court shall review the Northern Illinois University student code of conduct every two (2) calendar years, to affirm the SGA Code of Conduct. This review shall be completed by December 1st .
   3. Procedure
      1. The Chief Justice shall collect the most up-to-date versions of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, Senate Operating Manual, Executive Operating Manual, and Supreme Court Code of Procedures.
      2. These materials shall be sent to the Justices at least 48 hours before the Court is scheduled to convene. Justices are to carefully read each document.
      3. At least three members of the Court must be present to conduct business. Once the Court convenes, it shall be called to order by the Chief Justice. Roll Call of the Justices present shall be taken.
      4. Moderated by the Chief Justice, the Court shall discuss any discrepancies, irrelevant information, changes, or updates to each document.
      5. The Clerk of the Court shall compile suggestions for each document.
      6. The Court shall vote on the final version of the suggested changes to each document.
      7. The Chief Justice shall send all suggestions to the Speaker of the Senate to be put to a vote in the Senate. Each document shall be voted upon by the Senate and amended as laid out in the constitution and bylaws, if applicable.

**This act will go into effect immediately.**

**New 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 week before and one week after the SGA election, and during the election period, 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 bylaw section 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.***

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

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.***

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  C 05 April 2024

**Author:**  Treasurer Larkin and Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55051**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to allocate 2/3rds of the remaining funds from Executive funding to supplemental funding.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Treasurer Larkin assessed the SGA’s accounts and determined that funding would more expediently serve the student population in Supplemental funding; and

WHEREAS, student organizations more often access SGA funds through Supplemental funding requests; and

WHEREAS, these funds do not best serve the student population if left in Executive funding; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that 2/3rds of the remaining funds from Executive funding to Supplemental funding.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: D** 5 April 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55052**

**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. Association for Supply Chain Management

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