**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**2:00 p.m. – Friday, 29 September 2023**

**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

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

***Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an*** [***Intent to Speak***](https://cglink.me/2sZ/s54) ***form, no later than 11:59 pm, September 28th, 2023.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. From September 22nd, 2023
   2. *Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.*
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SR55006: A resolution to confirm Director Appointments
13. New Business
14. SR55008: A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate
15. SR55009: A resolution to confirm the Sergeant-At-Arms
16. SR55010: A resolution to require the Student Trustee to give a report to the Senate twice per semester concerning the Board of Trustees.
17. SR55011: A resolution to update the constitution to reflect changes made in the previous year regarding the duties of the Vice president.
18. SB55003: A bill to allow Board of Election members to look at applications from those who have been in the SGA.
19. SB55004: A bill to update the bylaws to generalize the software the SGA uses for student organizations to allow for future software changes.
20. SR55012: A resolution to confirm the Deputy Treasurer
21. SB55005: A bill to change the timeline of required legislation.
22. Good of the Order
23. Announcements
24. 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** 22 September 2023

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55006**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm director appointments

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student Government Association Cabinet is created by the President and exists for the purpose of assisting the president in the performance of their duties and responsibilities”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.B states that “All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, President Olivia Newman has appointed Kanaan Deer to serve as Director of Greek Affairs; and

WHEREAS, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Kanaan Deer to serve as Director of Greek Affairs.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A** 29 September 2023

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55008**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article 1, Section 1.U.6 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the Clerk shall “be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hensley has appointed Senator Manny Corpuz as the Clerk of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Corpuz has displayed leadership qualities and taken initiative in her short time with SGA;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm Senator Manny Corpuz as Clerk of the Senate.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: B** 29 September 2023

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55009**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Sergeant-At-Arms

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, Section 1.Q of the Bylaws states that the Sergeant-At-Arms “[s]hall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hensley has appointed Senator Niko Bereolos as Sergeant-At-Arms;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Niko Bereolos be appointed as Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  C  29 September 2023

**Author:**  **Previous Senator Olson**

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55010**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to require the Student Trustee to give a report to the Senate twice per semester concerning the Board of Trustees.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee is the main link between the Board of Trustees and the student body; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the student body remains up to date and informed with the activities and decisions of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee is knowledgeable of the activities and decisions of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Student Trustee should give a report concerning the activates and decisions of the Board of Trustees twice per semester;

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

**ARTICLE I**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 5. The Student Trustee**

A. The Student Trustee shall be elected with the executive officers in the spring semester.

B. Subject to the terms and conditions of applicable law, the Student Trustee shall function as a full voting member of the NIU Board of Trustees and fulfill all duties as specified in the Northern Illinois University Law, NIU Board of Trustees governing rules, and the Student Government Association governing rules.

C. The Student Trustee shall be a Student Government Association officer and a member of the Student Government Association Executive Branch.

D. The term of office and conditions of the Student Trustee shall be as specified in the Northern Illinois University Law, or in its silence by the NIU Board of Trustees governing rules and by the Student Government Association governing rules.

E. If the Office of Student Trustee should become vacant, the President of the Student Government Association, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

F. In addition to the requirements listed in the Northern Illinois University Law, the Student Trustee shall be required to be a full time NIU student and shall not concurrently serve as an elected or stipend official within the Student Government Association.

G. Meet with the Senate twice per semester to give a report concerning the Board of Trustees.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: D** 29 September 2023

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55011**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to update the constitution to reflect changes made in the previous year regarding the duties of the Vice president.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, in the 54th session the Vice president was made to no longer be required to be on the Board of Elections as they often would be running in said election and thus be unable to hold a BOE position; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and bylaws should agree with each other; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution should be made up of sentences that are grammatically correct and this sentence to be removed currently does not: and

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

shall have the power 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 should be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE III.  THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 2.  Duties of the Vice President of the Student Government Association**

     The Vice President of the Student Government Association shall be empowered to:

A.  Act on behalf of the President, when requested to do so by the President.

B.  Update the Constitution and Bylaws within 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.

C.  Hold and preside over at least one organizational assembly each academic year and serve as an advisor on SGA procedures to student organizations.

D.  Direct the administrative process for SGA recognition of student organizations and maintain the SGA records of current student organization leaders, official advisors, and constitutions.

E.  Grant temporary recognition to student organizations when the Senate is not in session.

~~F.  Oversee all elections of the SGA as prescribed in the Bylaws, unless a candidate.~~

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  E  29 September 2023

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

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55003**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to allow Board of Election members to look at applications from those who have been in the SGA.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current wording of the bylaws in Part II Article II, §1.D would prohibit any senator on the

board of elections from reviewing and returning senators application; and

WHEREAS, most of the BOE are Senators; 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 Part II Article II, §1.D will be amended to the following:

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.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  F  29 September 2023

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55004**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to generalize the software the SGA uses for student organizations to allow for future software changes.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the bylaws should reflect the current state of used software; and

WHEREAS, with in the past three (3) years the SGA has changed student organization platforms at least two (2) times; and

WHEREAS, this caused confusion as when updating software the bylaws often lagged behind becoming out of date; and

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

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following parts of the Bylaws will be amended to replace Huskie Link, Huskie hub, or any other way of describing a student organization platform to NIU’s Student Organization Platform;

Part I, Article III, §3.J.1

Part III, Article II, §1.A

Part III, Article II, §2.C

Part III, Article II, §3.B

Part III, Article IV, A

Part III, Article V, B

Part IV, Article III, §6.A

Part IV, Article V, §2.C.1:

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: G** 29 September 2023

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55012**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Deputy Treasurer

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article III, §3.D of the Student Government Association Constitution states that the Treasurer “shall have only one (1) paid Deputy Treasurer”; and

WHEREAS, Treasurer Larkin has appointed Ryan Kramer to serve as Deputy Treasure; and

WHEREAS, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate confirm Ryan Kramer as the Deputy Treasurer.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  H  **29 September 2023**

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

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55005**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to change the timeline of required legislation.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current bylaws call for legislation to be drafted and submitted within 20 days of a senators first one on one; and

WHEREAS, this can be as soon as the senators third meeting; and

WHEREAS, the senate should try to only propose legislation that has been given due consideration; 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 changed to the following:

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate**

The Student Government Association Senate shall have the following duties and responsibilities as a body acting in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules:

1. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
2. Legislate all matters of student interest.
3. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
4. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
   1. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
   2. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
5. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
6. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
7. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
8. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate ~~twenty (20) business days after their first one-on-one with the Deputy Speaker~~ before the third to last meeting of the current session.

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