

Student Government Association Senate

Northern Illinois University

2:00 p.m. – Friday, 10 November 2023

Holmes Student Center Sky Room

Public Streaming: <http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive>

Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an [Intent to Speak](#) form, no later than 11:59 pm, November 9th, 2023.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - 0. From November 3rd, 2023

Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Speaker's Report
- VII. Special Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SR55017: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their Constitution
 - B. SR55021: A resolution to Advocate for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students
 - C. SR55022: A resolution to amend the SGA Constitution Removal Process & Voting Policy
 - D. SP55001: A Petition to Advocate for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SR55023: A resolution to support the work that the GSRC is doing with the Period Project at NIU
 - B. SR55024: A resolution to recognize student organizations.
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

Please be advised that public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person, and that any one topic may not be discussed for more than 15 minutes.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations.

Old Business
Agenda Item: A
Author: Deputy Speaker English
Sponsor:

First Reading
20 October 2023

ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55017
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their Constitution.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA should reflect the realities of how the Senate operates; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA currently does not reflect the realities of how SGA operates; 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

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposing Amendments

A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Senate in writing at any regular meeting. When the Senate meets next it shall consider the proposed amendment. The meeting at which the vote shall take place must be at least two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the delivery of the proposal to the Senate.

Section 2. Approval of Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all senators, regardless of whether they are present, abstain, or vote.

Section 3. Preserving the Constitution and Amendments

~~No portion of this original Constitution shall be altered or destroyed. Instead, each Amendment shall be attached to this Constitution along with its ratification date and signatures. Each Amendment shall state the articles, sections and paragraphs that are amended.~~ The historian shall maintain a copy of each new constitution in the SGA's digital files.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Muslim Student Association

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English, Senator Sofia

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55021
Fifty-Fifth Session

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

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association and Northern Illinois University acknowledge the stolen ancestral land of the Anishinaabe Council of the Three Fires of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples this university resides on and address the ethnic cleansing committed against Native Americans during the colonization of America; and,

WHEREAS, In previous years, the University has released statements and addressed different political conflicts of oppression; and,

WHEREAS, The systemic brutalization and torture that the Palestinian people have endured daily since 1948¹ is left without representation and acknowledgment of their ongoing oppression, disregarding the innocent lives lost; and,

WHEREAS, Under International Law, the Palestinian people have the right to defend against colonialism and apartheid experienced in the two separate “established territories,” Gaza and the West Bank, in which Israel still exerts control over; and,

WHEREAS, Israel controls all economic aspects of Palestinian welfare² alongside travel restrictions

¹ <https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israels-practices-against-palestinian-economy-exacerbating-dire-living-conditions-occupied-territory-syrian-golan-senior-official-tells-second-committee>

placed on Palestinians within and outside of the West Bank and Gaza, creating a caste system using identification cards to heavily limit Palestinians and their movement and strip them of many of their basic human rights while demonstrating the total control they have over Gaza³; and,

WHEREAS, Israel has violated 28 resolutions⁴ of the United Nations Security Council (which are legally binding on member-nations U.N. Charter, Article 25 (1945); a few sample resolutions - 54, 111, 233, 234, 236, 248, 250, 252, 256, 262, 267, 270, 280, 285, 298, 313, 316, 468, 476; and,

WHEREAS, The effect of Israel's state-sanctioned violence is not only limited to Palestinian students, but all those that support Palestinian resistance since they face retaliation and educational, professional, and personal threats from organization such as, but not limited to, the Canary Mission⁵; and,

WHEREAS, The Jewish and Israeli people are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government and the Palestinian fight is not defined by Hamas' actions, rather the Palestinian fight is rooted in resisting colonization and oppression for all within the region; and,

WHEREAS, Violence from the Israeli government and Hamas should never be condoned and all civilian casualties should be condemned, furthermore the ongoing war stems from decades of oppression and violence under the Israeli regime; and,

WHEREAS, The oppression and war crimes committed against Palestinians and Arabs residing in Israel, especially those in Gaza, has driven them to engage in this mass movement of decolonization; and,

WHEREAS, Condemning Israeli nationalism and Israel's political Zionism is not condemning the

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67051292>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/11/gaza-sealed-palestinians-face-aid-freezes-too>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/gaza-cut-off-from-food-water-and-fuel-as-israels-punishing-bombardment-continues>

⁴ http://itisapartheid.org/Documents_pdf_etc/IsraelViolationsInternationalLaw.pdf

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses>

⁵ <https://againstcanarymission.org/what-is-canary-mission/>

<https://canarymission.org/about>

Jewish right to a safe homeland; rather, it is a movement against the British colonial project that established Israel, the continuance of that project, and the mass murder of many innocent lives regardless of their religion, race, age, gender, etc; and,

WHEREAS, Palestinian students have consistently and continue to feel unheard and unrecognized by NIU SGA and the University for disregarding the ongoing crisis, despite standing policy to advocate for Palestinian students

THEREFORE, This resolution condemns any behavior that would invalidate and endanger those who may be grieving due to recent events that have transpired, including those of Jewish and/or Israeli origin; and,

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will release a statement in collaboration with affected student groups including the resolution authors, sponsors, and contributors condemning islamophobia, antisemitism, and overall acts and/or words of hate while providing campus resources for the Huskie community including but not limited to mental health and educational/informational resources; and,

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

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Clerk Corpuz, Deputy Speaker English

Sponsor: Clerk Corpuz, Deputy Speaker English

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55022
Fifty-Fifth Session

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

Legislation:

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact following changes be added to the Student Government Association Constitution:

ARTICLE IV
Section 2. Definition of Votes

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

ARTICLE VII. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Section 1. Process of Removal

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

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

Section 2. Reasons for Removal from Office

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

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Muslim Student Association and Arab Student Association

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English, Senator Sofia

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE PETITION 55001
Fifty-Fifth Session

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

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association and Northern Illinois University acknowledge the stolen ancestral land of the Anishinaabe Council of the Three Fires of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples this university resides on and address the ethnic cleansing committed against Native Americans during the colonization of America; and,

WHEREAS, In previous years, the University has released statements and addressed different political conflicts of oppression; and,

WHEREAS, The systemic brutalization and torture that the Palestinian people have endured daily since 1948⁶ is left without representation and acknowledgment of their ongoing oppression, disregarding the innocent lives lost; and,

WHEREAS, Under International Law, the Palestinian people have the right to defend against colonialism and apartheid experienced in the two separate “established territories,” Gaza and the West Bank, in which Israel still exerts control over; and,

WHEREAS, Israel controls all economic aspects of Palestinian welfare⁷ alongside travel restrictions placed on Palestinians within and outside of the West Bank and Gaza, creating a caste system using identification cards to heavily limit Palestinians and their movement and

⁶ <https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/>

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israels-practices-against-palestinian-economy-exacerbating-dire-living-conditions-occupied-territory-syrian-golan-senior-official-tells-second-committee>

strip them of many of their basic human rights while demonstrating the total control they have over Gaza⁸; and,

WHEREAS, Israel has violated 28 resolutions⁹ of the United Nations Security Council (which are legally binding on member-nations U.N. Charter, Article 25 (1945); a few sample resolutions - 54, 111, 233, 234, 236, 248, 250, 252, 256, 262, 267, 270, 280, 285, 298, 313, 316, 468, 476; and,

WHEREAS, The effect of Israel's state-sanctioned violence is not only limited to Palestinian students, but all those that support Palestinian resistance since they face retaliation and educational, professional, and personal threats from organization such as, but not limited to, the Canary Mission¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, The Jewish and Israeli people are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government and the Palestinian fight is not defined by Hamas' actions, rather the Palestinian fight is rooted in resisting colonization and oppression for all within the region; and,

WHEREAS, Violence from the Israeli government and Hamas should never be condoned and all civilian casualties should be condemned, furthermore the ongoing war stems from decades of oppression and violence under the Israeli regime; and,

WHEREAS, The oppression and war crimes committed against Palestinians and Arabs residing in Israel, especially those in Gaza, has driven them to engage in this mass movement of decolonization; and,

WHEREAS, Condemning Israeli nationalism and Israel's political Zionism is not condemning the

⁸ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67051292>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/11/gaza-sealed-palestinians-face-aid-freezes-too>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/gaza-cut-off-from-food-water-and-fuel-as-israels-punishing-bombardment-continues>

⁹ http://itisapartheid.org/Documents_pdf_etc/IsraelViolationsInternationalLaw.pdf

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses>

¹⁰ <https://againstcanarymission.org/what-is-canary-mission/>

<https://canarymission.org/about>

Jewish right to a safe homeland; rather, it is a movement against the British colonial project that established Israel, the continuance of that project, and the mass murder of many innocent lives regardless of their religion, race, age, gender, etc; and,

WHEREAS, Palestinian students have consistently and continue to feel unheard and unrecognized by NIU SGA and the University for disregarding the ongoing crisis, despite standing policy to advocate for Palestinian students

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will call upon Northern Illinois University to release a statement in collaboration with the petition writers regarding the consequences of misinformation and misrepresentation-- including the separation of Palestine/Palestinians and Hamas--to ensure that the human rights violations of Palestinian people are acknowledged, while acknowledging the innocent lives lost of both Israelis and Palestinians; and,

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will call upon Northern Illinois University to equitably support marginalized Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and allied students while condemning all civilian lives lost in this conflict and recognizing the Palestinian struggle; and,

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will advocate that Northern Illinois University organizes and facilitates educational and/or informational sessions about the current violence in Palestine and Israel, therefore providing trustworthy information to the NIU community about the ongoing Palestinian genocide and creating a space in which the student body can learn and mutually support one another; and,

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

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Deputy Speaker English, GSRC, Ellis Heyen

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English

First Reading
November 10th 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55023
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A resolution to support the work that the GSRC is doing with the Period Project at NIU

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Nearly a quarter of NIU students struggle to regularly afford period products; and

WHEREAS, with Trans Day of Remembrance approaching it is important to remember that anyone can have a period, and it is important to use inclusive language that reflects all identities of those who have periods.

WHEREAS, the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) is actively trying to alleviate the issues of period poverty, period stigma, and period inclusion through the Period Project; and

WHEREAS, the NIU SGA can support initiatives made on campus; and

WHEREAS, through this support NIU SGA can bring greater positive attention to this issue and can support the GSRC in its mission to educate students, faculty, and staff about these issues.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate stand in formal support of the Period Project.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate and wish to direct those looking to learn more to contact either the authors of this resolution or the following websites,

[Period Project](#) | [Gender and Sexuality Resource Center](#) | [Northern Illinois University \(niu.edu\)](#)

[SOTP-2023.pdf \(period.org\)](#)

[Period.org](#) | [Home](#)

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Deputy Speaker English

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English

First Reading

10 November 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55024
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. Rockford Promise Club
2. Latin American Graduate Student Association
3. Arab Students Association
4. Campus Missions International
5. Society of Physics Students
6. NIU Student Council on Family Relations
7. Tumbao

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.