**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**3:00 p.m. – Friday, *May 3rd, 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, May 2nd, 2024.***

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
5. From April 26th, 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. SR55069: A resolution to terminate Chief-Justice Weiskopf based off a petition for removal
10. SR55061: A resolution to allow Senators to receive a stipend
11. SB55026: A bill to grant SGA Senators a stipend for their work accomplished over the semester
12. SR55068: A resolution to decide the Fall 2024 Senator Stipend amount
13. New Business
14. SB55038: A bill to limit individuals from a similar organization to take up positions in the SGA
15. SB55039: A bill to suggest changes to the NIU SGA Supreme Court’s Code of Procedure
16. SB55040: A Bill to update the bylaws based on the recommendations from the Chief Justice acting as a representative of the Supreme Court
17. SB55041: A bill to ensure the bylaws are consistent with the passage of SB55038
18. SB55042: A bill to update the bylaws for when outreach campaign information is due
19. SR55074: A resolution to recognize student organizations.
20. Good of the Order
21. Announcements
22. Adjournment

Please be advised that public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person, and that any one

topic may not be discussed for more than 15 minutes.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami,

Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations.

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A** 3 May 2024

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55069**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to terminate Chief-Justice Weiskopf

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, a petition for removal has been brought forward claiming Chief-Justice Weiskopf has failed and neglected his duty as Chief-Justice/Associate Justice of the SGA Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Constitution says a reason for termination is “neglect of duty” as seen in the letter below; and

WHEREAS, no corrective action can fix the problem at hand; and

WHEREAS, the petitioners strongly believe Chief-Justice Weiskopf should be terminated; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Senate must approve any suspension or termination of the Speaker, President, or Chief-Justice with a 2/3 Vote;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Chief-Justice Weiskopf shall be terminated from all positions he holds within SGA.

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**Notice of Termination Vote**

April 24th, 2024

DeKalb, IL 60115

Dear Elliot Weiskopf,

This letter is a notice of a vote of termination occurring on Friday, May 3rd, at 3:00 pm in the HSC sky room during the SGA Senate session.

As the Chief-Justice of the SGA Supreme Court since the previous Chief-Justice graduated, you are responsible for upholding the Supreme court’s code of procedure and to ensure the court is functioning correctly.

This can be seen in the SGA Constitution Article V, Section 4.A: “The Chief Justice shall be a voting member.  The Chief Justice shall officiate at all court sessions, call the various people who will testify, count the votes and announce decisions to all concerned.  The Chief Justice will be responsible for conducting all court sessions according to the Code of Procedure.  The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as the Judicial Branch’s administrative officer and shall be responsible for requesting such funds as are deemed necessary for all court proceedings.”

Additionally, the actions (or lack thereof) that led to this termination are as follows . . .

1. Failure to convene prior to the October 1st Governing Document Review Process due date (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
2. Failure to complete the Governing Document Review process prior to the October 1st deadline, and failure to complete this at all (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
3. Failure to review the Code of Conduct by December 1st, the failure to complete this at all (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)
4. Failure to respond to a student’s request for a copy of the Supreme Court ruling for case SY24001 (3/27) (Supreme Court Code of Procedure)

The SGA HR Policy serves as a way for corrective action throughout the current session. Whereas 682542the SGA Supreme Court was not active until mid-March, well passed the deadlines. Thus, the remaining supervisors have concluded that no corrective-action can be taken, due to extreme neglect of duty.

Additionally the SGA Constitution, the Supreme Governing Document, says in Article VII, Section 2: “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, criminal behavior, and any other behavior that is deemed to be in violation with most current human resource policy as outlined in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part I, Article IV, §3.”

Your position as the Chief Justice (including Associate Justice) of the Student Government Association Supreme Court plays an integral role in serving our students. As a result of your failure to meet the requirements of your position, a vote for termination will be held this Friday at 3:00 pm in the HSC Sky room (5/3/24). Additionally, if applicable, you will be suspended from pay from SGA until the vote occurs. However, you may act in your role as Chief-Justice/Associate Justice without pay.

Your removal from this elected or appointed position will include a piece of legislation that will be presented to the Senate, authored by the remaining supervisors, so the Senate may vote to remove you. Should this removal be denied, you will have the option to continue your work in SGA. Upon a successful vote for termination, you will be immediately removed from office.

Upon termination, you must arrange a time to return any SGA property to the main office by Friday, May 10th.

We thank you for the time, commitment, and contributions that you have provided to SGA through your position. However, it is important that in the pursuit of providing the best possible experience for our students that our officers meet their expectations.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B  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

**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 criteria list for the Senator Stipend (which includes the requirements laid out in the SGA Bylaws Part I, Article II: Legislative Branch and those laid out in the Senate Operating Manual).
7. 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, based on the criteria list created in SGA Bylaws Part I, Article IV, Section 4.F, at the end of the previous semester. It 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.
8. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee.
9. 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.
10. 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 completion of their duties and responsibilities and the criteria set by the Office of the Speaker.
11. The Speaker shall also have the ability to prevent a Senator from receiving a stipend, with proper reasoning and evidence.
12. 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:**  C  12 April 2024

**Author:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Lazaric

**Sponsor:** Clerk Corpuz, Senator Lazaric

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55026**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary**: A bill to grant SGA Senators a stipend for their work accomplished over the semester.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senators have numerous responsibilities to remain seated on the Student Government Association Senate;

WHEREAS, Senators do not have any incentive to improve SGA except for being removed from Senate;

WHEREAS, Senators should have some incentive to fulfill their responsibilities to SGA that rewards them for completing their jobs;

WHEREAS, Senators should receive compensation for there dedication and effort in helping to improve student life on campus;

WHEREAS, Senators should receive a stipend that is given to them under the condition that they complete all of their responsibilities within the semester;

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 following changes be added to the Student Government Association Bylaws:

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
2. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
   1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
      1. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
      2. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
      3. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among - 6 - those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
   2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. a. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
   3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker’s decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.
   4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
   5. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator’s excusal form.
3. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
4. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) training during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
   1. If a senator has already attended CODE training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
   2. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.
   3. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
   4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
   5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses - 7 - per semester with the appropriate university office.
5. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by the Senate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
6. Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
7. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.
8. Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for their work accomplished during the semester. The amount will be predetermined by the Speaker and Student Advisor and will only be rewarded fully upon the completion of all responsibilities that a Senator must complete within the semester.
   1. The Office of the Speaker will collect a list of the duties and responsibilities that Senators will complete over the semester. From there, the Office of the Speaker will determine the amount each Senator shall receive based on the list of completion.
   2. The Office of the Speaker will release to each Senator individually the total amount of the stipend they will receive based on their work for Senate no later than two (2) weeks before the last meeting of the semester.
   3. It is at the Speaker’s discretion to award a portion of the stipend to a Senator if the Senator completed only a partial amount of the listed responsibilities for a Senator. Should the Senator wish to appeal the decision for the amount received, the Senator can appeal with the Rules and Procedures Committee within one (1) week of the initial notice of the stipend release.
   4. If a Senator graduates within one semester of session, the requirements to receive the stipend will be the same as if they were serving as a Senator for an entire session.
   5. If a Senator joins before the semester ends, they will still be held to the same responsibilities as any other Senator and will receive the amount determined by the Office of the Speaker.
   6. If a Senator does not complete a single one of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and that are described in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Manual, they will not receive any amount of the stipend. This cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
   7. If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
   8. No member of Senate that holds a position that earns an hourly wage within SGA, shall not receive the senator stipend.
   9. If a member of SGA steps down from an hourly wage position, but they are still a senator, they are still eligible for the senator stipend pending review from the SGA Speaker and Advisor as laid out in the SGA Bylaws Part I, Article IV, Section 4.J,K

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: D** 26 April 2024

**Author:**  Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor: Speaker Hensley**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55068**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to decide the Fall 2024 Senator Stipend amount

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the SGA Senate has the authority to decide the stipend amount for Senator; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hensley has decided that the Fall 2024 stipend amount shall be $250;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the 2024 SGA Senator Stipend amount be approved.

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

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

**Agenda Item:**  A   **05/3/2024**

**Author:**  **Edwin Perez-Hernandez, Director for School of Art & Design Jessica Labatte,**

**Previous Historian Babcock**

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE Bill 55038**

**Fifty-Fourth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to limit individuals from a similar organization to take up positions in the SGA

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, There have been multiple positions filled by members of the same organization; and

WHEREAS, SGA should be a representative body of all students at NIU; and

WHEREAS, SGA has previously been investigated for OMA concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Senate should try to decrease the likelihood of OMA violations; and

WHEREAS, There should be a limit on individuals from the same organization taking up seats in the SGA; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 Subsection 5 as well as Article 4 Subsection 1 states the requirements to fill vacancies and reasons to skip applicants for the senate as well as qualifications to be in the Executive board;

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, there should be a limitation of 2 individuals from the same organization in SGA to prevent an overabundance of one organization in SGA to make more seats available to those unaffiliated in said organizations to be able to fill those seats.

Therefore to acopmlish this the following changes should be made to the SGA Bylaws;

## ARTICLE II

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

**Section 5**

**Senate Vacancies**

1. Until all Senate seats have been filled as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A the Speaker shall accept applications for all vacancies on the Senate, including vacancies for the next session that were not filled during the Spring Election. Vacancies shall include all seats in which a Senator has resigned or been removed, or the seat was not originally filled during the election. As each vacancy is announced, the Speaker shall present the name of the first applicant who has registered with a completed application for consideration for an open seat. Applications will not be taken from graduating students when less than six (6) meetings remain in the session or from returning students when less than four (4) meetings remain in the session. No person who is on the applicant list may be skipped, except for the following:
   1. The applicant asks to be skipped.
   2. The applicant cannot attend the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
   3. The applicant’s packet of information is not complete; such applicants will be moved to the bottom of the applicant list for later consideration.
   4. The applicant has not attended at least one Senate meeting in its entirety.
   5. The applicant has already been denied by the Senate in any given Senate session.
   6. The applicant belongs to an organization that a third (1/3) of seated members of the senate already belong to excluding SGA.
2. The Senate will interview each applicant in order ofeach open seat. The Senate Speaker will introduce all applicants who meet the current Senate seat replacement criteria to the Senate.
3. The Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures are as follows:
   1. Candidates for all Student Government Association offices shall be NIU students in good academic standing.
   2. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign awaiver releasing their name and student identification number, allowing them to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
   3. Re-entering students shall be eligible for candidacy for Student Government Association posts.
   4. All candidates for Senate seat replacement positions must have attended at least one full Student Government Association Senate meeting prior to candidacy for Senate. (To ascertain attendance, potential candidates must check in with the Senate Clerk within five minutes of roll being called and be present when their name is called at the final roll call at the adjournment of the meeting.)
   5. Applicants must give their presentation to the Senate within four (4) Senate meetings of their attendance as a member of the public. This time limit may be waived at the Speaker’s discretion should any extenuating circumstances apply.
   6. All candidates must obtain fifty (50) signatures from their constituents prior to submitting the application to the Speaker. The signatures must include the students’ full name, signature, Z-ID number, and a local phone number.
   7. Candidates must have turned in an application for the Senate seat replacement position to the SGA Senate Speaker at least 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting in which applications are first presented. If the candidate is applying for a seat for the next session of the Senate, the candidate must indicate that they are applying for the next session.
   8. 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/Hall Director/Graduate Hall Director or official housing contract.
   9. At the meeting in which they are presented, the applicants will be given the opportunity to give a speech, no longer than five minutes, to address the Senate on their reasons for becoming a Senator.
   10. The order in which applicants will be allowed to speak will be the same order in which the applications were turned into the Senate Speaker. However, each applicant will be considered separately for each open seat. No applicant can be considered before an applicant who is qualified and turns in a completed application first.
   11. After the candidate’s speech, the Senate floor will be open for the Senate to ask the candidate questions. Each Senator will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and receive answers. Following all candidates’ speeches, the candidates will wait outside the Senate chambers as the Senate discusses the candidates.
   12. After the Senate closes discussion, each candidate will be voted on individually in the order in which they spoke. Any candidate who has completed the process outlined above but was not selected to join the Senate will be required to attend an entire additional meeting before being considered again.
   13. 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 group(s) or organization(s) with which they are affiliated.
   14. The applicants must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.
   15. The newly approved Senators will take office after the voting has taken place on all candidates at that meeting.
   16. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate. They may, however, be elected into the Senate in the fall election. No person who has been removed from office in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.

(...)

## ARTICLE IV

**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS**

**Section 1**

**Qualifications for Office**

1. To hold any elected or appointed position in the SGA, including but not limited to, all officers, senators, and representatives of the SGA, a student must
   1. not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, ~~and~~
   2. the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 during tenure in office if in undergraduate school or the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 during tenure in office if in graduate school, or be in their first semester at the University,
   3. The student must not belong to an organization in which a half (½) of other members of the Legislative already belong to. ~~This shall apply to all officers, senators, and representatives of the SGA.~~
   4. In addition, to hold the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or any other paid SGA position, qualifications for office must be met by a candidate/elected individual prior to taking office but need not necessarily be met at the time of candidacy. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet all qualifications for office by the time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
2. Those seeking the office of Student trustee must have met minimum State of Illinois requirements for the position by the time of taking office. Each year the ~~Board of Elections chairperson~~ Election Commissioner is advised to review the most current requirements before elections. Current requirements are as follows: “The student member must be a resident of this State, must have and maintain a grade point average that is equivalent to at least

2.5 on a 4.0 scale and must be a full-time student enrolled at all times during their term of office except for that part of the term which follows the completion of the last full regular semester of the succeeding academic year at the university.”

1. By assuming office, students agree to abide by the Northern Illinois University Student Code of Conduct as

adopted by the SGA. The adopted version shall be referred to as the “SGA Code of Conduct”. Infractions of this policy shall be voted upon by the Senate, in accordance with the sanctions defined in the Glossary, Appendix A of the bylaws, for purposes of discipline within SGA. Infractions must be related to one’s position as a member of SGA, as determined by the Senate. These decisions are separate from, in addition to, and do not negate any actions taken by the NIU Student Conduct office, or by other legal offices, entities, or departments. Appeals of these decisions will be heard by the SGA Supreme Court, which will deliver a final ruling on a case-by-case basis. All policies in the NIU Student Code of Conduct shall be adopted, unless the Senate votes to exclude any part of it or introduces a new policy. The Supreme Court shall review the NIU Student Code of Conduct at least every two (2) calendar years in accordance with the Supreme Court Code of Procedures and make recommendations to exclude or include policies. Changes to the SGA code of conduct must be approved by the Senate by a two-thirds vote and will be reflected in Appendix B of the bylaws. Additions may not violate any university, local, state, or federal laws, policies, guidelines, or regulations and may not be discriminatory in nature.

1. All Leadership Positions within the Student Government Association are expected to be knowledgeable on all parts of the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, Operating Manual, and Robert’s Rules of Order. Leadership positions consist of the entirety of the Executive Branch, the Office of the Speaker, Senate Chairpersons, and Senate Leadership Positions. To ensure knowledge and understanding, a test on the governing documents shall be administered to all appointed positions within a week of appointment. A score of 67% or higher must be achieved to maintain the appointed position. If this percentage is not achieved, a second test can be taken within two (2) business days of the original test and must be passed with a 75% or higher. Elected positions, namely the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Student Trustee, and the Speaker of the Senate are expected to achieve a minimum of 75% on the test within the first two weeks of taking office.

***This act is ordered to take effect at the end of the Fifty-Fifth Session***

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  B   **3 May 2024**

**Author:** Deputy Speaker

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55039**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to suggest changes to the NIU SGA Supreme Court’s Code of Procedure

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, The Code of procedure should be routinely reviewed; and

WHEREAS, Currently there no strict requirement for any/all justices to receive documents relating to

the cases before them; and

WHEREAS, Justices should be able to see and review case material before the trail; and

WHEREAS, Currently there is no timeline of when a case is required to be heard; and

WHEREAS, Cases should not be able to be accepted for review by the court then never go to trial; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §5.B.1 of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “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”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the following changes be suggested to the Supreme Court for consideration when reviewing; and

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. Notification may take place via;
      1. US postal service,
      2. telephone,
      3. email,
      4. 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 SGA Advisor orand may be filed electronically with the Chief Justice.~~
      2. A written response must be filed with the SGA Chief Justice and either the SGA Office Manager or SGA Advisor.
      3. Responses may be filed electronically.
      4. The responses must be sent to the remaining justices within twelve (12) hours of receiving any written documents.
      5. 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 up until twenty (20) business days after 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. The Supreme court will try to set a date that ~~both~~ all parties are able to attend.
         2. However Parties to the hearing need not be present for the hearing to take place.
      2. If a hearing is not able to be heard within twenty (20) business days after the deadline to submit a response has lapsed the case will continue as following the procedure laid out for when the Supreme Court is not able to meet quorum
   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.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the Supreme Court should submit and updated Code of Procedure before the end of the 2024 calendar year.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  C   **3 May 2024**

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

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55040**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:** A Bill to update the bylaws based on the recommendations from the Chief Justice acting as a representative of the Supreme Court

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, There have been instances of confusion due to the fact that the election commissioner

was able to decide who could be on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, the BOE should have final responsibility to ensure all candidates meet the

requirements to be on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, this falls in line with the suggestions brought before the 55th Senate by the Supreme

Court; 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

Part II

Article II

  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. - 27 –
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 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 weeks preceding the week of Spring Elections.
   6. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing 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 or decisions relating to student placement on the final election ballot.
8. The Election Commissioner will notify the Board of Elections on any decision made within twelve hours. The Board of Elections will then vote upon the Commissioner’s decision within forty-eight hours and within twenty-four hours during the elections.
   1. If no vote is reached by the Board of Elections in 48 hours, the decision made by the Election Commissioner stands.

Section 3

Board of Elections

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

Section 4

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING TIMES

1. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
2. The Election Commissioner will schedule a weekly meeting of the Board to discuss the matters concerning the election.
3. The candidates’ meeting shall be held by the Board of Elections for both Senate and Executive elections. The Board of Elections members shall attend the meetings. The Board shall schedule additional candidate meetings if deemed necessary.
4. The Board of Elections shall meet on either the Monday, the Tuesday, or the Wednesday prior to spring recess to discuss, finalize and announce the ballot.
5. The Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  D  3 May 2024

**Author:** Speaker Hensley, Deputy Speaker English

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley, Deputy Speaker English

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55041**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:**A bill to ensure the bylaws are consistent with the passage of SB55038,

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Senate has passed SB55038; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws should reflect the passage of this bill; and

WHEREAS, the senate shall ensure that the integrity of SB55038 is upheld; and

WHEREAS, it will be the Speaker’s responsibility to ensure the removal listed below is followed;

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

SGA Bylaws

Article II

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
2. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
3. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
4. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
5. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
6. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
7. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being meet, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
8. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
9. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker’s decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.
10. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
11. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator’s excusal form.
12. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
13. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) training during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
14. If a senator has already attended CODE training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
15. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.
16. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
17. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
18. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses per semester with the appropriate university office.
19. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by the Senate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
20. Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
21. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.
22. Senators are required to give a list to the SGA Speaker as to which organizations they belong to. Upon joining a new organization, Senators shall give an updated organizations list to the SGA Speaker.
23. Senators who join an organization that would cause them to violate SGA Bylaws Article II, Section 5.A.6 after joining Senate shall be removed.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:**  E  3 May 2024

**Author:** Speaker Hensley

**Sponsor:** Speaker Hensley

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55042**

**Fifty-Fifth Session**

**Summary:**A bill to update the bylaws for when outreach campaign information is due,

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, currently outreach campaign information is not due until the start of the last senate meeting of the year; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws in every other requirement say “second-to-last senate meeting”; and

WHEREAS, the senate should strive for consistency; and

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

SGA Bylaws

Article II, Section 2.G

1. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the second-to-last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: F** 3 May 2024

**Author:**  Organization Oversight Committee

**Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English**

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55074**

**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. NIU Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers

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