

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday November 7th, 2025 – 4:30 PM
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 8th, 2025.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. This meeting was called to order by Speaker Gonzalez at 4:37 pm in the HSC (Holmes Student Center) Sky Room.
2. 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
3. **Voting Members Present:** Senator Tinajero, Senator Robinson, Senator Uhrine, Senator Salerno, Senator Zimmer, Senator Galloway, Senator Obabko, Senator Asante, Senator Owosu, Senator Lynch, Senator Boniecki, Senator Adeoye, Senator Sanders, Deputy Speaker Guerrero
4. **Voting members Absent:**
5. **Voting members Excused:**

II. Verification of Quorum

1. Deputy Speaker Guerrero confirms quorum is met.

III. Public Comments

1. There is none.

IV. Approval of Minutes

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to table the minutes from October 24th and 31st
2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero so moved.
3. Senator Zimmer seconded.
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
7. The motion is passed, and the minutes are tabled till next Senate meeting.

V. Approval of Agenda

1. Speaker Gonzalez moves to add Dr. Reneau's Report to the agenda.

2. Deputy Speaker Guerrero so moves.
3. Senator Obabko seconds.
4. The motions is approved.
5. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a motion to approve the agenda.
6. Senator Obabko so moved.
7. Senator Boniecki seconded.
8. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
9. There is none.
10. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
11. The motion is passed, and the agenda is approved.

VI. Special Report

1. Dr. Clint-Micheal Reneau says,
 - i. “I just wanted to Okay, so I wanted to back it up. Just a couple of okay, I want to do this, and then I want to do there's a student question section. Got it? I am an individual. All right, so first of all, thank you for being here. I'm so excited to be in front of such power and such responsibility for our campus. It's really impressive to see you give up your time and your talent and your energy to help support our campus in this way. And what is even more encouraging is I remember some of you who I met during the week of welcome. It's your first year here. The fact that you have engaged yourself, you have done what you needed to do to get you know, elected and on in this serving in this capacity is exciting. The fact that I know that some of you are up this week to speak and to try to get yourself here as well. It is exciting. It's reassuring. So, I just want to say thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I'm grateful for that. The reason I'm here today on behalf of myself as Vice President for Student Affairs and behalf of the university president, Dr Lisa Freeman, is to share with you that we are now in the stage of where we are preparing the new university goals that will take us in the next academic year. You will see that the university goals come in some core themes that we always try to wrap the goals in anything that we're doing. We try to wrap them in these six centralized themes, and so that is around empowerment and shared responsibility. So, this, you know, thinking about shared government, thinking about shared governance, how we work with students. We work with different governance groups. Your talented speaker comes to university council that has another group that I'm on and always gives very compelling reports and represents you very well. Some of you represent different liaison spaces. So that's what that is about. The next theme is student recruitment, student success and experience. And so that's exactly what that means for the students. Student Experience here, how does the student experience look? What does it do in terms of how are we recruiting? What does it also do in terms of what it is that we are thinking about student success in terms of your academic success, your role is not

only as Husky as a husky belonging on this campus, but as a scholar. Each of you in this room and the constituents that you represent should see themselves as scholars. And so, if no one has ever told you you're a scholar. If no one has ever said to you that you are a scholar, you need to start identifying yourself as a scholar, because you certainly are certainly looking at academic excellence, curriculum, innovation, diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, research and scholarship and then resource development, fiscal responsibility are what Ground Up. These are the university goals. Okay, so you can take me to that last slide that talks about the certain questions, or There we go. So why I'm here is this, I want to have a conversation with you and have you start thinking about a QR code. And I really would appreciate you take some time in the moment to jot some stuff down in the QR code for me, to give me feedback, to take back to the President. Because the first thing we want to talk about is, I'm going to take a picture of this so I can remind myself of questions, and then I'm going to send it over to the QR code. But thinking around how we can encourage in terms of the goals, how we're developing, how we can encourage students to understand the opportunities, the opportunities that are present on this campus that prepare you for civic engagement, civic responsibility, kind of essentially what you're doing now. But how do we expand it? How do we help support other students? How we prepare you for career success and economic mobility? And so thinking around that first question, are there things that we need to do that might be a good university goal that highlights elevates Student Government, association, right? Is there something that could do to elevate the significance of this, to get more people involved, to get more ideas with the programming? I mean, I know I have to tell you, I have been meeting with the board of trustees and the president. We cannot thank you enough for what you have done in terms of the support you have offered the food pantry with everything that is happening with the shutdown and some of the financial concerns that are happening, the things that you are doing are elevating, and I appreciate that greatly. And so thinking around, are there things that we need to think about that would be beneficial for you in terms of your career success, right, your economic ability once you leave here. Are there things that would be good, programming wise, that would help set you on a path for success? Are there things that this association could do that would help elevate, enhance, expand your profile here? Are there leadership development pieces that you would like to see that maybe haven't been developed, that could be put into place for your success, for students success on this campus, are there things around civic engagement that will help you be a global citizen of the world, that could highlight impact, inform how you lead and learn in a different way, that will also help transcend you and make you ahead of the game when you start applying for the world of work once you leave this place. And so, if you could use that QR code, if you could think about that, if you could scan that, if you have any kind of ideas around that, that would be useful, I would appreciate that. So, for question one is around that, you know, civic engagement, social mobility, career readiness, that kind of thing. Appreciate any insight. There are

things that you can offer around elevating SGA, elevating the leadership development experience. I would, can I have like, two minutes? Can I just kind of sit with those two minutes and kind of take some notes and provide some feedback on that? That would be awesome before I move into the next question, and then I want to talk to about the next question. But if you could take a couple of minutes just to kind of think about that in terms of, you know, the other thing that we want students to understand is that the programs that you do like the Unity dinner. I mean, I've already got stuff on my calendar about the Unity dinner, the programs that you do when we're doing, we could welcome the programs that you do when you're supporting the food pantry. With that I don't want students to do, is to feel like, you know, we call these things soft skills a lot of times, and really, they're anything but what it is is they're so important because it teaches you how to have emotional intelligence. It teaches you how to hold a conversation with somebody. It teaches you how to do your elevator pitch in the moment, and how to understand empathy and compassion, and how to set yourself across the room from someone in network and all these kinds of things. I think what I'm also trying to get at is, are there things that we can do to help students understand these types of programs, these types of events? They're not fluff. I mean, they're important in terms of your greater citizenship and your identity is a leader. So, any insight that you can give would be helpful as we prepare and start writing what we need to do for the next generation of university strategic planning. So, I'm going to shut up and just take a picture if you have anything that you can throw on without me later. And then the next thing I want to share with you is that I don't have to tell you we're in a very highly polarized time right now, right we're living in an environment where, you know, folks with different opinions, whether you're right, left center, whatever, but they there's like this, I'm right, you're wrong. Shut up, sit down, speak over, cancel all this kind of stuff, right? And the thing is, is that a university has to be a place where you have diverse thoughts of you, right? A university has to be a place where you should be challenged in your beliefs, but you should also be unafraid to share your thoughts in a classroom, in a lab, in a leadership experience without the fear of having something you know, we also know that all talk has consequences, right? There's going to always be someone with an opinion. However, when we're thinking about diversity of thought, we need our campus and our students here to be able to feel that they have the strength, the wherewithal and the resources to hold the opinion that they hold, and to be able to express it in the classroom, in a project and whatever right and so my question to you is, what tools do you think students need, both inside and outside of the classroom to collaborate effectively, to communicate across difference, to solve complex problems, Right? Solving complex problems, collaborating across difference, effectively communicating that shows we can disagree without trying to cancel one another. We can disagree without trying to do so without, you know, with with, while asserting the human dignity that we all have and remain inherent with that human dignity, right? And so I would love to know whether you're thinking about inside the classroom or

outside the classroom. You know, just like I think about this, this unity dinner programs like that, other pieces like that, whether we think about the real talk conference, and we do something around dialoguing across difference, or, you know, whatever the case may be. But I would love to know, Are there tools that you can think of that you need as a citizen, as an engaged leader, as someone who would like to be able to communicate across difference without fear of whatever, because you're going to need that in the world of work. You're going to need to be able to do those skills in a global society. So can you also give some feedback about what you think will be useful, either in or out of classroom?"

2. Senator Uhrine asks,
 - i. "One thing I would say was mentorship opportunities, especially within the College of Education, having that resource to talk to a professor is useful, but I think it can be intimidating at times, and when you're in the classroom doing clinicals or student teaching, talking to a student who's been through it already or a graduate student is very helpful. I know that the College of Education has had high schoolers come in and they have a student panel. I was on one of those student panels, and all the high schoolers asked very good questions about what their curriculum will look like at NIU, but also how they will teach it to students, and what that is feeling like, and how those clinicals work. So, I feel like mentorship programs where we give students the opportunity to feel a connection and ask questions about fear of judgment from the professor is very helpful".
3. Dr Clint-Micheal Reneau responds,
 - i. "So, Senator, you're on your you're at so I think if I'm hearing correctly, you're also mentioning peer led mentorship, correct, so that it's demonstrated in. It's, it's shown from up here, yeah, and it's, it's peer driven, yes, okay, a model that's something that's peer driven, that's helpful. Thank you. Well, somebody put that in the QR code. Thank you. Anybody else? Anybody that you think needs tools that will be useful, or experiences or programs that will be useful for us to communicate across differences. I just think that there should be a little way more investment in in the mental health and emotional animal and emotional health opportunities, because assignments are stressful, especially now coming in towards the end of the September like, sure, there should be more opportunities available."
4. Senator Obabko says,
 - i. "I just think that there should be a little way more investment in in the mental health and emotional animal and emotional health opportunities, because assignments are stressful, especially now coming in towards the end of the September like, sure, there should be more opportunities available."
5. Dr. Clint-Micheal Reneau responds,
 - i. "I appreciate that. Thank you. And I will also just say, watch this space. There's some things that we'll be sharing hopefully in the near future on this but thank you. Appreciate that."
6. Senator Galloway says,

- i. “Hello. First of all, thank you for coming. Secondly, I agree with my fellow Senator about the peer mentorship, but I also want to speak from the perspective of a student of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, I'm a political science major, so I spend some time with the faculty. I try to build relationships and get internship there, and in a lot of cases, some of the stuff that I want to do as the first semester transfer student, I'm going to go, to my understanding, two first semester students here in the SGA Summit, some of the stuff that I want to do, I feel that the department can be kind of a can be kind of oppositional sometimes, and a lot of the reason that I've heard is because they don't have the capacity to address some of the things that I think will be good for the department, you know, for the university. So, I think if we could maybe empower not just peer mentors, but also the faculty to have a more, you know, close relationship with the students, to take on more. I guess I shouldn't say it like that, but to make them embrace some of what those students want to bring to the department, I think that would be beneficial.”
- 7. Dr. Clint-Micheal Reneau says,
 - i. “I appreciate that. Thank you, senator and so each of you brought us really important and cool points. So, we you know mental health has to be there absolutely. And Senator Galloway, your point this idea around I love the fact that you mentioned you were a first semester transfer student, right? So your perspective is very important, and it's unique. And I would also appreciate if any of you have an experience, whether it's your first time on a campus, whether you're first generation, whether you you're a junior and you're you've been here for a while, you're an honor student, whatever it is, think about your lived reality, and if, when you jump your notes into this can you also kind of think about your identity in terms of the student, and maybe some of the students that you serve that will be really useful. So thank you for that. So that's enough for me. Again, I just want to say it's a pleasure to see you all. I love seeing you around campus. I love seeing you at your events. You are a gift to this university. Your work is a gift. And I just ask you to please stay the course and continue so thank you very much. Thank you.”.

VII. Speaker's Report

- 1. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - i. ‘As you can tell from the agenda, we're going to be talking through a lot today. Which is why, for overviews of this legislation, I've prepared summaries, which is why you can see me read a lot. Granted, we ask me questions. Those are not prepared as part of the focus of the 57th session, but we are focusing on transparency and streamlining SGA bureaucracy. Therefore, let's development of three different bills related to the SGA election processes that you will see today, SGA finance committee passed a final hurdle in releasing the funds to the Husky food pantry on Tuesday, President Jones and his cabinet are hard at work developing up events that they will review the report at some point in time, one of those being the union dinner, and due to legislative matters we have had and

their schedules. Unfortunately, executive board members have not been able to provide the reports, but they will be able to provide the reports at the next meeting. Finally, the student SGA Organization Oversight Committee is hereby directed to complete a check in of student organizations. A mass email will go. Up to all student organizations. Hopefully, on Monday, November the 10th, the Committee will review the constitutions of student organizations to ensure that they meet the requirements set by SGA an update and they're eligible to receive SGA funding, which will be sent to treasurer, Nicholas Lazaric, before next fiscal year's annual funding form opens. Student organizations do not have to do anything at this point in time as will we be utilizing the information that's on their organization's web page on Huskie Hub.”

VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)

1. Deputy Speakers Report
 - i. There is none.
2. Historian’s Report
 - i. There is none.
3. Clerk’s Report
 - i. There is none.

IX. Committee Report(s)

1. Chairperson of Student Life and Greek Affairs’ report
 - i. There is none.
2. Chairperson of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs’ report
 - i. There is none.
3. Chairperson of Public Affairs’ report
 - i. There is none.
4. Chairperson of Organizational Oversight’s report
 - i. There is none.
5. Chairperson of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion’s report
 - i. There is none.
6. Chairperson of Board of Elections’ report
 - i. There is none.

X. Executive Branch Report(s)

1. President Jones
 - i. There is none.
2. Treasurer Lazaric
 - i. There is none.
3. Student Trustee Innis
 - i. There is none.

XI. Cabinet Report(s)

1. There is none

XII. Old Business

1. Discussion Regarding Transportation

- i. Speaker Gonzalez moves to table the agenda item to the next Senate meeting.
- ii. Senator Obabko so moved.
- iii. Senator Adeoye seconded.
- iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- v. There is none.
- vi. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- vii. The motion is passed, and the agenda item is table.

2. SB57011: A bill to revise Senator responsibilities

- i. Deputy Speaker Gurrero so moved.
 - ii. Senator Zimmer seconded.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez states,
 1. “What Deputy Speaker Gurrero and I decided was to split the bill into two, with this bill only contains provisions regarding consolidating CODE and Ally training together. As a reminder, it's being combined to streamline the choices, since the obligation to schedule the training is on the Office of the Speaker and has not been implemented since they were incorporated in the SGA bylaws due to difficulties in scheduling these types of trainings. Because this is just an amendment to an already released bill, this means that this bill is on its second reading. Meaning that this legislation can be voted on today, all the provisions regarding public relations and outreach campaigns have been removed and have been put into its own bid. Therefore, is there any discussion or debate on this legislation? Seeing as there's not, we will head into a vote”
 - iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. There is none.
 - vi. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
 - vii. The vote passes with a count of 12 yays, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.
3. SR57017: A resolution to approve all meeting times, location, and dates for the Spring 2026 semester.

- i. Deputy Speaker so moved.
 - ii. Senator Zimmer seconded.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez states,
 - 1. “All right, so this is basically the same resolution that we've had on this resolution seeks to continue us meeting at 4:30 PM on Fridays. The reason why it was tabled last time was in case we wanted to move it to another meeting time because this week was the week that you could register for your classes. That being said, the resolution is still set for Friday at 4:30 PM unless we have any discussion or debate”.
 - iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. There is none.
 - vi. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
 - vii. The vote passes with a count of 11 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstentions.
4. SR57020: A resolution to confirm a Senator
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Guerrero seconded.
 - iii. Candidate Gunther says,
 - 1. “Tristan Gunther. I'm currently a sophomore. I'm a mechanical engineering major with a minor in applied mathematics. I first heard about SGA from a friend in one of my classes and he said that SGA was a great way to get involved as well and help the student body with campus life. That's something that's really important me. So, my first year here, I was on the tennis club, and I think that was a great opportunity to really get out of my comfort zone meet new people across many different backgrounds. I'm currently a Senior Director of Recruitment for dog pound that really focuses on getting people excited and getting people out of their house and to campus events. I think that having been in clubs is a great way to get out, get out of your house and being on campus and meeting new people. It's a great way for friendships to build a stronger sense of community. If I was elected to be part of SGA, my top goal would be student involvement. I think improving communication between organizations and students is a great way to help with that. Sometimes people want to be able to participate in things and they don't really know what's out there. I think it's important to make

sure that people know that it's that there's plenty of events and clubs that are accessible to them, regardless of who they are or their major another issue that I really want to focus on is parking for students. I know many people are late for class or can't make it at all just because they cannot find a parking spot. There's plenty of parking spaces that are for staff, especially in the parking garage that just are never used. I think it would be great to allocate more spots for students, as well as potentially decreasing the amount of cost for specific parking spots, as well as increasing accessible bus routes for those I know a lot of our buses get shut down, things are late. People are late for class because of it. Overall, I would just want to serve on SGA to better and help the NIU campus here. And I think if we all work together, we can make some real progress on that. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your support. Thank you”.

iv. Senator Obabko asks,

1. “First of all, good speech. You mentioned that you want to get involved and want to help student involvement. What are some of your ideas to include student involvement?”.

v. Candidate Gunther replies,

1. “So, I think my best idea for that is I get a lot of emails about engineering clubs and a lot of engineering related things. But I'm also, you know, everybody's interested in things that aren't their major and I think if we can push out emails about clubs and events that aren't major specific for some people, can really help people get out of their comfort zone and make some new friends.”.

vi. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,

1. “Can you tell me some of your leadership experience had before coming up here as senator?”.

vii. Candidate Gunther replies,

1. “So, like I said, I'm a Senior Director of Recruitment for dog towns. It's really the big role is very important for us their downtown recruitment spot for many organizations, I did a lot of stuff in high school for that, I was part of the NHS, the National Honor Society, so I did some stuff. I

did some work with that, as well as being a very important leader in my tennis club in high school.”

- viii. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- ix. There is none.
- x. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- xi. The vote passes with a count of __10__ yays, __1__ nays, __1__ abstentions.

XIII. New Business

1. Discussion Regarding Transportation

- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
- ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
- iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “Transportation is important since affects us and the entire NIU population. However, given the slate of proposed bills for today, I'd like to request a motion to table this conversation then go straight into it. We better serve our constituents, but also the university that we actually have more time to talk and seriously consider the merits of this discussion, as opposed to rushing it”.
- iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- v. There is none.
- vi. Deputy Speaker Gurrero motions to table the conversation.
- vii. Senator Gunther so moved.
- viii. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- ix. The motions passes and Discussion Regarding Transportation is tabled to next week.

2. SB57012: A bill to revise Senator responsibilities regarding Outreach Campaign and Public Relations

- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
- ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
- iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “This is a new distinct bill, and therefore this is its first reading, even those provisions were seen in the old version of SB, 570, 11. As such, this bill cannot be voted on this week, after thought and feedback from some senators, there were changes made. Public Relations. Will no longer be required to be a senator. However, it can be if the speaker the Senate chooses to include it in the Senate operating manual. However, Senators can only be compelled to attend one PR event for SGA, even if the Senate operating manual says otherwise, academic or job conflicts are reasons to be excused from fulfilling this requirement. This is a balanced senator's lives, but also the expectation as senators to represent SGA. In regard to the outreach campaigns, we have included phrasing to allow people to collaborate and provide example events of what constituents of what those outreaches would look like. Not only is this to improve transparency between yourselves as senators, but also to the constituents that you are representing that way, they have an idea of what type of outreach they could expect from their senator. For instance, this

includes town halls, tabling in the specific college building that you are representing, or surveys. There's also an increased option to allow flexibility; by allowing proposals of what specific type of ideas you have for outreach campaigns to be accepted by the Office of the speaker. But all campaigns must be okay from the office of the speaker. This is just to ensure that senators are not only doing their job, but also, in the case of the speaker, must get involved, they're able to do so and aware of what the senators were specifically doing.”.

- iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. There is none.
 - vi. This bill is tabled to next week.
3. SB57013: A bill to further revise SGA election policies.
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “in part two of this bill, it does two things, first, explicitly advance artificially generated content that candidates running for office can utilize. SGA doesn't have an AI election policy. This is just to get ahead of the curve, especially as Sora and other AI models get more and more advanced. This is just to prevent headaches for board of elections, especially since there's nothing on the books in network marketing. The second aspect of this bill. It allows a panel of both student involvement, staff and SGA personnel to act as a final deciding body to resolve any sanctions, appeals or decisions from that comes after the Board of Elections have already issued their judgments. However, this could only be applied if the SGA Supreme Court is unavailable. The pair will be chaired by the SGA Pfizer. The reason for this is, as explained, the SGA Supreme Court currently lacks quorum to conduct any business. This is of no fault with the Supreme Court. Both me and President Jones have tried to interview people, to try to appoint people to make sure that the court is able to function. But there's just a general lack of interest in the Supreme Court side of SGA, therefore, and because it is a fear of the 57th Session leadership that in case there is any sort of appeals for sanctions that people want to appeal after they've already gone through the board of elections. There is no further Avenue. Hence why this panel, which is a little bit more somewhat still involved student voices, is being introduced, and this strikes a balance between the way how other student governments in the state of Illinois also conducted election policies as for

the most part, and almost a large chunk of student governments across the state, their student involvement department or related past are the ones that completely control their election process. We're really the only ones that do it within a unique student focused voice. But this still strikes a balance between having our own unique blend of how we conduct elections, but also monitoring how other places do it, but also ensuring that it's both transparent and fair for those involved. Is there any discussion debate on this legislation?"

iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.

v. Senator Obabko asks,

1. "Does this bill like replace the Supreme Court in its entirety, or it's just like more of a temporary measure, temporary measure."

vi. Speaker Gonzalez responds,

1. "He does not replace it as which is why I said it is only to be utilized if the Supreme Court is unavailable."

vii. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any further discussion or debate.

viii. There is none.

ix. This bill is tabled to next week.

4. SB57015: A bill to adjust Senator Seats During the Election Process

- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
- ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
- iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,

1. "This final election bill overhauls a formula for the election process. because, quite frankly, the current formula makes absolutely no sense. If you actually take time to read through how the Board of Elections opposed to proportionate Senator seats it is utilizing a formula that takes an account of the total student population, and it arbitrarily assigns a 20% of that total number to assign it per college. That's not really accurate, and that's not really encapsulate the full scope of when certain colleges receive higher enrollment, which we've seen during this fall 2025 semesters, which we have seen a surge in enrollment not seen in almost a decade. So therefore, a new funding formula has been set down in order to make sure it is indeed more equitable for a specific college and. It has also been written away to make sure that it's been able to understand by anyone, not just people who understand math. So

therefore, a sign from adjusting the minimum number of seats in Senate. It also specifically increases the amount of Senator seats that the graduate school can occupy from one to three acknowledging that graduate students do indeed make up a good chunk of our student population, even if their voices are not heard because they're busy and it is just of just a random coincidence that your speaker also happens to be a graduate student. But this is indeed in regard to more equitable treatment in terms of all colleges, and to ensure that all colleges have been make sure that everyone has two senators' seats, underserved communities retains their seven international student seats, ensures that it contains is two. That is the baseline with the funny formula that is new does, as you can see, which I call CEF, College Equity Formula, basically, it takes a student enrollment per college and divides that 5000 so therefore, at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has population about 4100 students divided by 1000 you get 4.1 rounding into the nearest number, that's four additional seats the college can now get. So, four plus two and now can have hold the total number of six-sided seats that can be represented, and it does is per each individual college. If it doesn't equal to one, then the college doesn't get any additional seats, and it'll be second to additionally. What this formula does with a True Enrollment Formula, the TEF, and it takes this total student population and divides that by 1000 so, for instance, I believe I'm not mistaken currently, and I use total student population is about 14,600 or so paper tape divide between the math that is about 14.6 or 15 Senate seats, which we utilize As university at large Senate seats, 50% will be saved that can be appointed during the session, like will be done this year, with adding senators, but also the rest will be up for grabs in the election process, allowing our students to be involved in that election process and have their student voices heard. That is essentially what this bill use does is that it aims to make it a little bit clearer. Another thing that this bill does is that if the Board of Elections has a dispute regarding the true number of Senator seats, that can be open for the upcoming election cycle, as it goes through the Board of Elections like it normally does, but it can be appealed to the Senate, and where the Senate can pass a resolution to

either uphold the decision of the BOE or adjust it, because at the end of the day, it is the Senate's responsibility, and it affects us regarding how many Senate receipts there are available.”.

iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.

v. Senator Galloway asks,

1. “So, just to be clear, just to make sure I'm understanding, like, the formula correctly, the current configuration of the Senate, Bell Road jurisdiction, is going to be losing any seats, right? It's just about the heading to make it more proportional. We're not going to, like, take away seats from a specific constituency”.

vi. Speaker Gonzalez responds,

1. “Correct? This is only because this is specifically adjusting what Board of Elections will be doing. So, the board of elections that will be running this year, they'll use, of this bill passes, are utilizing this bill to adjust the senators for the 58th Session. It's not going to change or affect the 57th Session in any shape or form,”

vii. Senator Galloway further asks,

1. “But like in the 57th Session, like we're never going to have less than what we have now”.

viii. Speaker Gonzalez responds,

1. “That is correct, everyone will be guaranteed two Senate seats for each individual college with graduate students having three. Only because graduate students are a little bit special in that regard, it's specifically in regard to the fact that although they should, all should get to just because of the response different responsibilities. Because for graduate students, we have both master's and doctoral students that could be applied so to open it up to those students, that is why an additional seat has been added to them. And I said, there's almost never more than three graduate students in SGA at a given moment”.

ix. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.

x. There is none.

xi. This bill is tabled to next week.

5. SB57016: A bill to revise student organization policies

i. Senator Zimmer so moved.

- ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
- iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “For this specific bill, we are students at the end of the day. Yes, we may have chosen Northern Illinois University for aspects of student life. By the end of the day, we are here to attain a degree. Therefore, for student organizations, we have to balance being involved in our student organizations but also fulfilling our academic objectives. Therefore, what this bill aims to do is it changes the race period for student organization elected officers, if their GPA falls below, then what is required by SGA. The GPA requirement is 2.5 currently elected officials have a semester of grace period to improve their GPA before they're removed. However, the current wording doesn't necessarily match as it's all a bit confusing because it mentioned something about two semesters, which even though they're basically one semester. So, this aims to simplify that. What this proposed bill, proposed bill aims to do is that if an elected official is not as unable to immediately improve their GPA by the end of their grace period, they will automatically be stripped of all their title and duties and obligations that was forwarded to them under the Student Organization constitution, and the next person up for that seat will then they will move to this is to ensure that those elected officials can focus on their academics and improve their GPA in the first place, but also it allows a different voice to be heard in that student organization. Another aspect of this bill is it simplifies communication regarding between student organization and SGA representatives, but it specifically does. It requires student organizations if they want to talk to SGA leadership, specifically, they have to utilize your AI needs this. This becomes, this is the employee size of anything, and they need copies of email exchanges. We're able to provide them, and it doesn't go into wacky legal trouble if we're using our CIDs for communication. Another thing it does is that it requires all communication to cc the SJ email address. That way, there's always a record of what the conversation was regarding for future administrations to look back to that way, there is no miscommunication between SGA and student organizations, and that if someone said something, we can track down what was said specifically and address it accordingly. Instead of adding this level of ‘Who said what?’”.

- iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. There is none.
 - vi. This bill is tabled to next week.
6. SB57017: A bill to revise student organizations
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “Much like SB 570 16, this adds that same refinement of SGA communication and CC the email address and regarding to any financial communication. So again, anything financial you can have a track of what was said and what was communicated, especially if it's something that say during the 55th say the future state, there's an issue during the 58 session, and you're like, well, Speaker Gonzalez said this in the 57th and there's no record of what I said. That's a problem. So that's why, ensuring that we're CC email addresses on all communication, even though we'll blow up our inbox, make sure that there is a record of what is said”.
 - iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. Senator Uhrine asks,
 - 1. “Will this be part of the training required for student organizations?”.
 - vi. Speaker Gonzalez responds,
 - 1. “This is something that we can do. I'll make it requirement that they understand that if they want to communicate to SGA members individually, they can but they have to CC the SGA email address.”.
 - vii. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any further discussion or debate.
 - viii. There is none.
 - ix. This bill is tabled to next week.
7. SR57021: A resolution to confirm the Spring 2026 Board of Elections
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “It is required, for the speaker to collect nominations for the board of elections before the fall semester ends. Hence why this resolution is being put forward as stipulated, and this is the first reading of this resolution, which we're not going to be voting on today. I'm only going to be collecting nominations for Board of Elections in order for board of elections to run and inspire people. And we there are two spaces for alternatives. So therefore, if one person is unable to fulfill their duties, the alternate is often charged for board elections. During the next

meeting, we will vote on that slate of nominations using what's called ranked choice voting, which we will explain during the meeting when we approve the descent nominations. I would like to state as well, if you do decide to become a part of the board of elections, you'll be unable to run in any future SGA elections. That is just stipulation within our bylaws as well. You also can't vote inside SGA elections as well. Your responsibility of being on the committee essentially the same as any other committee of SGA. It is basically another standing committee. You just have more responsibilities regarding towards it”.

- iv. Speaker Gonzalez nominates Deputy Speaker Guerrero.
 - v. Deputy Speaker Gurrero accepts.
 - vi. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is further nominations
 - vii. There is none.
 - viii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “If you still want a fence lean, think about it, and then during the next meeting, we'll review and discuss the resolution. You can bring them up here as an audience member during the next Senate meeting and then nominate them. They just must be in the Senate chamber in order to be to accept the nomination. They do not have to be Student Government Association members”.
 - ix. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - x. There is none.
 - xi. This bill is tabled to next week.
8. SR57022: A resolution to increase the number of Senators
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Speaker Gonzalez says,
 - 1. “What this resolution aims to do, assuming we approve and hopefully we do all the remaining senators that are on the docket, we will run out of university at large senators positions. We currently still have students interested in joining SGA senators. Reality is that most of them fall within different colleges that are already full, or the University at-large seats will. However, if it is the goal of yesterday's Senate in order to hear as many voices as possible, and because the Board of Elections couldn't have anticipated not only the increased amount of enrollment we've received this fall semester, but also the increased engagement and interest in student government association, there were just not enough designated university At Large seats for the 56th and 57th Session. Therefore, with the consent of the Senate, which is why proposing this resolution, I want to increase the amount of Senator seats of university advised positions from four to eight. That way we're able to accommodate potentially more senators who do want to join Student Government Association, and as you see in the ware access, although wreath will be designing and have free up a spot in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we can't rely on people stepping down in order to allow more people to fill up in the seats. That is why I'm asking this

extraordinary stuff, and because I'm asking in this format, in this way. I hope to set the precedent that if future sessions need to do this, they're able to invoke the same formula, the same rationale, reasonings, and asking the consent of the Senate in order to do this properly. ”.

- iv. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - v. There is none.
 - vi. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
 - vii. The vote passes with a count of 12 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstentions.
9. SR57023: A resolution to approve a Senator.
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Candidate Walker says,
 - 1. “Good evening, everyone. I hope all is well. My name is Ashanti Walker. I'm from Chicago, Illinois. I am a first-generation college student. I'm in my sophomore year, majoring in political science with emphasis in public law. I have aspirations on my own law firm specializing in family law. My first year, my first year, I knew I wanted to make a difference, to represent the underrepresented. I did the Black Student pageant, but I was certain I didn't want to just stop there on campus, as I see here, I don't think I've seen in you before. I took interest in the Student Government, and that's not a bad thing. That just shows that we're on different sides of the campus and with different views, different experiences on campus, but yet we're all in one place, which is why we need representation from every aspect of the school. I am interested in SGA Senate position for the College of Law or university housing. I believe that every student deserves their voice heard. As students, we all face challenges balancing school, work and personal life, but we also share a common goal to make college to make our college experience meaningful, support, supportive and empowering. If elected, I plan to focus on three things, advocacy, making sure student concerns are brought to the table and acted on engagement, creating more opportunities for students to get involved and feel connected on campus. And lastly, impact, turning great ideas into real results. Thank you.”.
 - iv. Senator Robionson asks,
 - 1. “Are there other previous positions of leadership that you have previously? Can you elaborate some more of those”.
 - v. Candidate Walker responds,
 - 1. “I'm in the Black Student Union on campus. I'm currently a pageant coordinator for the upcoming pageant next semester, and I also do community service beyond NIU”.
 - vi. Senator Obabko asks,
 - 1. “What are some of your initiatives as you work for today? Should we be opening into the semester?”
 - vii. Candidate Walker responds,
 - 1. “Just community service. That's my biggest feeling”.
 - viii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,

1. "What's one student concern you think SGA is overlooking right Now, and how would you address that issue that".
 - ix. Candidate Walker says,
 1. "I think SGA is overlooking is. Is, like, my majors, and when I look for like, you know, looking for the tutoring, I don't see, like, a lot of tutoring for my major, like political science, like I'm comparative politics right now, and I need help, and I don't see any, like, any tutor for that. And if that, I would like implement more tutoring for majors".
 - x. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
 - xi. There is none.
 - xii. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
 - xiii. The vote passes with a count of __10__yays, __1__nays, __2__ abstentions.
10. SR57024: A resolution to approve a Senator.
- i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 - iii. Candidate Brownlee says,
 1. "Hello, everyone. My name is Jalen Brownlee. I'm a senior majoring in finance. I was born and raised on the west side of Chicago, the North Glendale Community, attending and graduating from Christ King and Jesuit Academy as a middle child among my five brothers, the first to attend college. It really played a big role in my contamination to succeed, accountability. Open to growth, compassion and integrity and our core values I live by. These morals drive me to keep pushing forward, set a strong example for my family, and truly make the most of every opportunity to meet our full potential. Other than SGA, I'm involved with reorganizations on campus, being a black male initiative, Financial Management Association and undergrad network organization. I'm also a Community Advisor and grant leader. It's what our leadership roles that allow me to advocate for others is one of my goals, and I believe SGA offers excellent opportunities and resources to help me do so. I believe my ability to connect with people and desire and my desires to be a leader on campus are great resources that I can bring to SGA that I believe will positively impact the organization. I am honestly curious of my capabilities, and I feel SGA is a great way, a great place to explore those leadership opportunities, and a great way for me to make my mark on campus. I want to be an intermediary between students and the systems put in place that all the students' experiences on the campus,

because I feel good serving the community, that I'm a part of my compassion and energy, that I must be a voice for others drive me to create meaningful change. And I want to ensure that every student feels heard, valued and included in campus decisions. Lastly, by joining SGA, I hope to grow as a leader, while also uplifting those around me, and to develop professional skills that are transferred into my career. I want to have something meaningful to show for my efforts, not just through personal growth, but through positive changes I can help to create on campus. Being an SGA will allow me to turn my ideas into action and represent the voices of my peers.”.

iv. Senator Obabko says,

1. “Thank you for your speech. Should you be should you be appointed? What are some initiatives that you plan to put forward?”.

v. Candidate Brownlee responds,

1. “Some initiatives that I plan to put forward is just making the leadership organizations like SGA more accessible and more known to the students on campus. I feel that a lot of the organizations on campus are more centered around self, building your confidence, and just being involved on campus, which I do believe is great, but I feel that the leadership programs like this one are they helps. It helps develop your professional skills that can be transferred into your career.”.

vi. Senator Uhrine asks,

1. “As a fellow Community Advisor, how is being an SGA, if you are elected and going to implement more knowledge about SGA to your residents, like, how would you talk to your residents about SGA?”.

vii. Candidate Brownlee responds,

1. “I like that question. A lot of my residents, when I do get to talk to them, are always looking for things, looking for places on campus to find themselves. And I feel, although it's my senior year, I feel that I've kind of built up and seen the campus which is led here, so I kind of want to maybe cut out that time and provide that information to them, letting come out and do it as quickly as”.

viii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,

1. "So, what motivated you to be part of SJ knowing that you're in your senior year,".
- ix. Candidate Brownlee says,
 1. "Like I said, a lot of the boards that I've joined, I feel helped me build my self-confidence and helped me be more involved on campus, just personally, but I feel SGA helps me to be more of an advocate for others. I guess I should say, like I said, I mean, I'm very curious of my capabilities, and like I said, I'm just really driven to help".
- x. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- xi. There is none.
- xii. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- xiii. The vote passes with a count of 13 yays, 0 nays, 1 abstentions.
11. SR57025: A resolution to approve a Senator.
 - i. Senator Zimmer so moved.
 - ii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero seconded the motion.
 1. Candidate Lozano says,
 - a. "Hello everybody, thank you for your time. My name is Travis Lozano and I'm a junior here at NIU, majoring in finance. I work mostly around the DeKalb County area. I'm from Sycamore and last Genoa area. I grew up there. For about 10 years and just mostly recent. The last few years, moved to Singapore. I found out about SGA by seeing some shirts on campus. I frequently see people wearing shirts on campus, and I thought it was interesting, so I decided to do some research about it, some places, some community service that I have done here. I volunteered for the Husky Food Pantry a few times last year. I think that was a great experience. Just recently, at one of our NIU home tailgates, I volunteered for a community called the different life, which is a nonprofit organization that helps people with various types of blood cancers, and I also volunteered at the step earlier this year, if I was elected to SGA. One thing I want to help hear students is to try to improve the quality of food. As a freshman, I thought that the food like college food was pretty great, but over the last couple years, I've seen that, in my opinion, anyways, that the food has come to a decline, like in Paterson and Neptune areas. And the only place that I see that has good quality food nowadays is Stevenson dining also, as well as some off campus dining spots like Qudoba and Husky Den doesn't appear at the Student Center, I've taken away the meal option plans at a certain time, which I feel like is unfair to the students here who don't who want better quality of food or don't have the Husky box for \$9 meal plan and some initiatives, if I was elected to the Senate, that I would do is create a survey

and try to post it, whether it's flyers around here on campus or through social media, or even going around campus and talking to people face to face to get their best opinion. That's something I would do. And if I was appointed here Senate, I would be looking forward to working with you all on this initiative and any similar initiative that might come up in the future regarding this discussion, but otherwise, that's my speech. Thank you for your time.”.

- iii. Senator Galloway asks,
 - 1. “So you mentioned the survey. I might have missed what the survey was about”.
- iv. Candidate Lozano responds,
 - 1. “Okay, yes, so I, I forgot to talk about this. But it was basically, you talking about the good and the bad about the dining halls, on what improvements can be seen, like, how good the quality of how good the quality of food is, like, you know, stuff that, just to get the students opinion, and what we could try to do better, because obviously, everybody's busy here, maybe that food for the most of energy”.
- v. Senator Robinson asks,
 - 1. “You mentioned you did a lot of volunteer work during your time today. You were there any positions of leadership we took during those services, or any others you'd like to mention,”.
- vi. Candidate Lozano says,
 - 1. “Did not hold any leadership, but some in these when I did volunteers, but some past leadership experience I know, like in school, I was a leader in the group projects a lot. And one of the jobs I have I was when I was in freshman year of college, within, like, the first year there I got promoted to manager. So that was, like, very helpful leadership experience. Need a group of people and, like, really, kind of, it really improved my communication skills a lot”.
- vii. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,
 - 1. “What motivate you to be involved in SGA, compared instead of other organizations on campus?”.
- viii. Candidate Lozano responds,
 - 1. “SGA has from what I’ve gathered us a good place to start. I definitely took it because I definitely think it's a great, greater way to help the community and students. It's seen as a great place to start getting the experts this.”.
- ix. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,
 - 1. “What's one student concern you think SGA is overlooking right now? And how would you address it?”.
- x. Candidate Lozano responds,
 - 1. “Something that was mentioned earlier about transportation, but I feel like that what this committee said about the routes and some people, miss it. I feel like that's one thing that's been overlooked. I think that's like, a most common thing, and I've seen ways to improve that. I mean, maybe through like, I know there is, like, one of the apps that's used to like, track, the bus, routes. I feel like that can be like, maybe better updated to

help students, because sometimes the times under what the times are on there is not always more like when the bus comes.”.

- xi. Deputy Speaker Gurrero asks,
 - 1. “So, you mentioned food on campus, one of your priorities. What other two priorities you have as Senator if you become one?”.
- xii. Candidate Lozano responds,
 - 1. “Not really. I haven't given that as the food plan, but I would invest in me thank you for this semester, for these matters. Gather more information.”.
- xiii. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
- xiv. There is none.
- xv. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
- xvi. The vote passes with a count of __12__yays, __2__nays, __1__ abstentions.

Good of the Order

- 12. Senator Owusu asks,
 - i. “I would like to raise a concern about the volume of today's legislation I have no idea how the items are being selected but today both old and new business we had roughly 15 items so I was wondering if you could adjust to selection of legislation for debate so that we can improve or at least ensure quality of debate and the Senate.”.
- 13. Speaker Gonzalez responds,
 - i. “Unlike the 56th Session speaker who had imposed his own requirement of five legislation pieces overall, it is to the veterans of NIU as a whole, for the student population, if there is agenda item pieces that were submitted to rules procedure committee to be considered, that they are considered when they appeared, as opposed to holding them over for any other meetings. Because depending on what those pieces are, they could have time requirements and time constraints that are important and that need to be passed. I understand in terms of scheduling, that we have other stuff to do, even myself. I have something to be but at the end of the day, we signed up for this so I can, I can try to do my best to determine and adjust the flow of legislation, but at the same time, I prefer to have legislation be heard as they are submitted, as opposed to, I put an arbitrary number, and that's the amount of resolutions and agenda items we'll discuss reading the meeting. But again, I do appreciate the feedback.”.

XIV. Announcements

- 1. Senator Galloway says,
 - i. “I wanted to announce, for the benefit of everybody in the Senate, a campus engagement opportunity, Wednesday, November 12, from 6pm to 7:30pm PCLP room 100 dream action is going to be hosting the buffet fundraiser for pretty silly and leave your tickets for \$10 or day off at the door. You can pick them for 15 while. That might seem a little bit steep. I would advise you to keep in mind that if you don't have a meal plan, then to get a general meal on campus. It's about 12,

\$13 for dinner price. So the benefit of this is that you get to engage with the community on campus and students with and students I'll be there.”.

XV. Adjournment

1. Speaker Gonzalez motioned to adjourn
2. Senator Zimmer so motioned
3. Senator Adeoye seconded the motion
4. Speaker Gonzalez asks if there is any discussion or debate.
5. There is none.
6. Speaker Gonzalez calls for a vote.
7. The motion passes and the meeting is adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Closing Attendance:

1. **Voting Members Present:** Senator Tinajero, Senator Robinson, Senator Uhrine, Senator Salerno, Senator Zimmer, Senator Galloway, Senator Obabko, Senator Asante, Senator Owosu, Senator Lynch, Senator Boniecki, Senator Adeoye, Senator Sanders, Senator Gunther, Senator Walker, Senator Lozano, Senator Brownlee, Deputy Speaker Guerrero
2. **Voting members Absent:**

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY

3. Speaker Gonzalez on January 30th, 2026