**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday October 11th , 2024 – 4:00 PM**

**Holmes Student Center Capitol**

**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, October 10th, 2024.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from October 4th, 2024
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
    1. Student Trustee Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56004: A bill to update the procedures of recognizing student organizations
13. New Business
    1. SB56005: A bill to update expand some aspects of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate
    2. SB56006: A bill to update and clarify the Clerk’s responsibilities in the SGA Bylaws
    3. SR56011: A resolution to confirm a Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
    4. SR56012: A resolution to confirm a Director for Organizational Development
    5. SR56013: A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate
    6. SR56014: A resolution to confirm student organizations
14. Good of the Order
15. Announcements
16. 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**  **October 4th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56004**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the procedures of recognizing student organizations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Article IV §1.C of the Student Government Association Bylaws governs the procedures of new organizational approval,

WHEREAS, Student Government Association runs the risk of breaching anti-discrimination laws if rejecting a new organization not based on their merits; and

WHEREAS, this will provide a more efficient and streamlined way for new student organizations to be approved; and

WHERAS, having need an expedited business flow allows for the Senate to discuss, debate, and vote on other resolutions or bills that impact the students, staff, and community of Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

**ARTICLE IV**

**PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNTION**

The SGA shall outline an orderly process to assist organizations in obtaining recognition and prevent false or inappropriate groups from receiving recognition. The Vice President, together with the Organization Oversight Committee is charged with overseeing the recognition process. The recognition process consists of the following steps listed below.

1. Recognition Form: All groups seeking recognition must complete an Organization Registration Form on NIU’s Student Organization Platform that consists of the following:
   1. Organization Description: for use by all new organizations as well as returning organizations that wish to change their description.
   2. Organization Officers: for use at the beginning of each academic year any time an officer or faculty advisor changes during the academic year and during Mid-Year Transition.
   3. Faculty/Staff Advisor Agreement: for use when starting an organization and at any time the faculty advisor changes during the following school year.
   4. Governing Documents: including the organization’s constitution, bylaws, and national constitution (if applicable).
2. Organization Oversight Committee Review

The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee. The Organization Oversight Committee will meet with a representative from ~~the leader(s) of~~ the organization, review its constitution, and ~~make a recommendation to~~ approve or reject the potential organization ~~to the full Senate.~~ The Organization Oversight Committee will also determine the classification of the organization if approved. The Organizational Oversight Committee can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization, otherwise be granted full recognition by committee members. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify ~~each organization as well as~~ the treasurer of the SGA of the organization’s full recognition as well as the organization’s designated classification being granted after approval in the Organization Oversight Committee meeting. Committee members must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s recognition. ~~Recommendation of recognition of an organization can be made without a meeting with the leaders of the organization only following approval from both the organization and the Organization Oversight Committee.~~

1. ~~Senate Review~~

~~Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Senate will add the item to an upcoming Senate meeting for a vote. Each organization recommended for approval will be discussed and voted on as one business item. Senate can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the treasurer of the SGA of the organization’s their full recognition as well as the organization’s designated classification being granted after approval in the senate meeting. Senators must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s recognition.~~

1. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee ~~the Senate~~ for approval must wait at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of rejection to reapply for recognition. In cases where an organization has lost recognition due to violations of Student Government Association policy and/or Student Code of Conduct and/or has shown a pattern of such behavior, the university may advise on the waiting period for reapplication.

1. Recognition After Cease of Existence

If a recognized student organization either voluntarily or involuntarily disbands or ceases to exist on campus in an official capacity for longer than one academic year the organization must go through the recognition process again.

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

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

**Agenda Item:** A   **October 11th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56005**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update expand some aspects of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Article II §1.P of the Student Government Association Bylaws governs the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association shall have a member of Seante leadership on Organization Oversight to help expedite the approval process of organizations and general oversight of SGA recognized organizations; and

WHEREAS, this bill will expand upon SB 56004 and strengthened the provisions and efficiency of the bill; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate**

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

P. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:

1. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
2. Be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve. ~~no earlier than the first scheduled meeting of the academic year.~~
3. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by coordinating overall activities of the chairs, and meet with individual chairs one on one once every month, and Senators once every two months.
4. Shall create and administer leadership quizzes to ensure all elected legislative positions are equipped with sufficient comprehension of Robert’s Rules of Order and other knowledge deemed by the Deputy Speaker important to hold the role.
5. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
6. Shall temporarily carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the Senate when directed by the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker.
7. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
8. Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.
9. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
10. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
11. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to preform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker
12. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
13. Shall be a paid position.
14. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
15. Shall serve as one of the main spokespersons for the SGA Senate alongside the Speaker for any press releases or statements made to the press, in regards to the SGA Senate
16. At the discretion of the Speaker.
17. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** B  **October 11th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56006**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and clarify the Clerk’s responsibilities in the SGA Bylaws

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Senate is an important role in the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk’s responsibilities are not well defined in the SGA Bylaws and leaves room for interpretation issues; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk can be appointed without the Senate being in session; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk shall be primarily responsible for tasks assigned to them that focus on supporting the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, Clarification of the Bylaws helps to define the Clerk’s administrative power only to cover the Legislative Branch of SGA; and

WHEREAS, making the Clerk a conditional unpaid position if appointed out of the session prevents any person from receiving payment without the Senate’s approval; and

WHEREAS, ensures that the Clerk must go before the Senate and be confirmed in order to become a paid position; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the

SGA bylaws be changed to the following:

**Article II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate**

1. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:
   1. Shall be responsible for the public transparency, upkeep, and maintenance of all Senate Records, including all official correspondence and online live-stream recordings of all meetings, discussions, and votes on all legislation and candidates alike via shortened minutes\* that log votes cast and the recording and public transcripts to NIU’s Student Organization Platform as well as contacting the office of Web and Internal Communications to put them on the NIU Website.
      1. Shortened Minutes will still be uploaded in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, complete with attendance records, vote counts, and a brief summary of agenda items rather than a full transcription.
   2. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function ~~among the three branches~~ for the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
   3. ~~Shall report only to the Speaker.~~ Shall report to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker primarily and assist with any administrative responsibilities for the Legislative Branch or tasks given by Senate Leadership.
   4. Shall be the custodian of the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, working directly with the Vice President to ensure the governing documents are up to date and in good order.
   5. ~~Shall have other tasks assigned by the Speaker.~~ Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association’s Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform
   6. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
   7. If the Senate is not in session, the Speaker reserves the right to appoint the Clerk without a vote by the Senate. The Clerk shall be an unpaid position if appointed while Senate is not in session and will be updated to a paid position once Senate is in session and the Clerk is confirmed by the Senate.
   8. Shall see to upholding Robert’s Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
   9. Shall be a paid position.

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

**­­**

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** C  **October 11th , 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56011**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm a Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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

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

WHEREAS, President Ja’Kobe Jones has appointed Isabella Montoya to serve as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Isabella Montoya to serve as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** D  **October 11th , 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56012**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm a Director for Organizational Development

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

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

WHEREAS, President Ja’Kobe Jones has appointed David Rivera to serve as Director of Organizational Development; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of David Rivera to serve as Director of Organizational Development.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** E **October 11th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56013**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

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

**Legislation:**

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

WHEREAS, Speaker Corpuz has appointed Senator Cameron Sawyer as the Clerk of the Senate; and

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

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

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

**­**

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** F  **October 11th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE LEGISLATION 56014**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm 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. National Pre-Med Association Chapter at Northern Illinois University
2. NIU Law Review
3. Sports and Entertainment Law Society
4. Alpha Epsilon Delta

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