**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday March 21st, 2025 – 4:00 PM**

**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, March 20th, 2025.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from March 7th, 2025
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56023: A bill to update the Constitution to provide further definition of the Code of Procedure
    2. SB56024: A bill to update the responsibilities and duties of the Chief Justice
    3. SB56025: A bill to ensure that there is clear precedent and archiving standards for the SGA Supreme Court.
13. New Business
    1. SB56026: A bill to update the bylaws to provide definition of major changes to student organization’s constitutions
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**  March 7th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56023**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the Constitution to provide further definition of the Code of Procedure

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Code of Procedure is one of the most essential documents for SGA and the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the most current Code of Procedure has not been updated and passed in recent sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Procedure should be reviewed every two (2) years by the Supreme Court and given to the Senate for approval upon review; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Code of Procedure should be given to both the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch in the event that the Chief Justice is not currently elected and transitional materials were not properly passed to the next Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS, The Code of Procedure is required for the Supreme Court to operate more efficiently and having a safety for the Code of Procedure prevents any loss of history for the document itself; and

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

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

SGA Constitution be changed to the following:

**Section 2.  Code of Procedure**

1. The Code of Procedure is the governing document of the SGA Supreme Court. It shall be upheld and amended solely by the Supreme Court, with the approval of the Senate. Upon approval by the Senate, a copy of the Code of Procedure shall be provided to both the Speaker and the President.
2. The Code of Procedure shall be reviewed at least every two (2) calendar years by the Supreme Court. If no amendments are needed to be made in that time, the Supreme Court shall still submit a copy of the Code of Procedures to the Senate for approval.
3. The Code of Procedure shall mainly be held by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and shall be passed to the next elected Chief Justice within the transitional materials. In the case that there is no current Chief Justice, the most updated Code of Procedure shall be sent to both the President and the Speaker to be passed in their transitional materials until a new Chief Justice is elected by the Supreme Court.
4. The rules of the Supreme Court shall be outlined in the Code of Procedure of the Supreme Court.  All judicial action must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Procedure.  ~~All amendments to the Code of Procedure shall be approved by the Senate and the Supreme Court before going into effect.~~

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

**­­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: B**  March 7th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56024**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the responsibilities and duties of the Chief Justice

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS the Chief Justice is the highest seat of the Judicial Branch of SGA; and

WHEREAS the Chief Justice shall be responsible for ensuring that the Judicial Branch is efficiently operating every year that they sit in their position; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice should be responsible for ensuring that documents like the Code of Procedure, SGA Bylaws, and SGA Constitution be properly updated and reviewed by the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, there is no transitional method for the Code of Procedure and has caused problems in previous sessions about what exactly is the Code of Procedure; and

WHEREAS, there should be a written documentation and record of the Code of Procedure that can be passed on to the future sessions of SGA; and

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

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

SGA Constitution be changed to the following:

**Section 4.  The Chief Justice**

1. 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.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to notify all students of charges brought against them, to inform them of their rights according to this Constitution and to ensure that the proper procedure is used in making such a charge.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to maintain the Code of Procedure that is used by the Supreme Court. It shall also be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to call upon the Supreme Court to review the Code of Procedure and send any amendments to the Senate for approval.
4. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to call upon the Supreme Court to review the SGA Bylaws and Constitution. Any changes that they deem necessary shall be brought before the Senate by the Chief Justice as recommendations which will be still voted by the Senate for approval, in accordance with the current procedure for amendments to the SGA Bylaws and Constitution.
5. The Chief Justice shall hold the most current and updated version of the Code of Procedure. The Chief Justice shall send the updated copy, pending approval from the Senate, of the Code of Procedure to the Speaker and the President. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to pass the responsibility of the Code of Procedure to the Clerk of the Court or the longest sitting Justice in the event that the Chief Justice steps down from their position, regardless of the reason for vacating their seat as Chief Justice.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: C** March 7th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56025**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to ensure that there is clear precedent and archiving standards for the SGA Supreme Court.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the lack of informational materials such the Court of Procedures during the 56th Session highlights the lack of clear records the Student Government Association Supreme Court has or in the SGA overall possession; and

WHEREAS, if the court does not have records of past cases, they cannot rule based on precedent and the wording of the SGA Constitution or SGA Bylaws that are under consideration.

WHEREAS, Article I, §1.S of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the Parliamentarians duties include, “Shall act as a liaison between the Judicial and Legislative branches alongside the Clerk of the Court in reviewing and archiving court opinions and documents”; and

WHEREAS, the Parliamentarian should ensure that the court should be informed of past precedents in order to properly cite legal standings and become more transparent to the Northern Illinois University body; and

WHEREAS, the codification of these procedures in the Constitution of Student Government Association for the Supreme Court ensures that the Parliamentarian can function effectively without questions of their authority; and

WHEREAS, such codification sends a message to the student body that all branches of Student Government Association is striving to be as transparent, appropriate, and approachable as possible; and

WHEREAS, this legislation ensures that the Parliamentarian cannot voice nor debate in Supreme Court hearings that would give the Legislative Branch, or Executive Branch, an unfair advantage or influence in any judicial proceedings of the court; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that any incoming Chief Justice appoints a Clerk of the Seante ensures that activities of the Court are public knowledge, the Parliamentarian has a contact to work with, and ensures there is a smooth transition in the case of absence, removal, or conflict of interest stemming from the Chief Justice; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that Constitution & Bylaws be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE V. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**Section 5.  The Clerk of the Court**

A.  The Chief Justice of the Court ~~shall~~ must appoint an Associate Justice to serve as the Clerk of the Court, with the approval of the Court.  In the absence of the Chief Justice or their inability to hear a case, the Clerk of Court shall act as Chief Justice until a replacement can be appointed or the return of the Chief Justice.

B.  The duties of the Clerk shall be the following: to ensure the minutes of the Court are kept, to record all court cases on audio or video equipment, to schedule all cases at the direction of the Chief Justice and to notify all persons deemed necessary of the date, time, location, names, and charges against those individuals to be tried.  The Clerk of Court shall be a voting member of the Court.  All records of the Court shall ~~be maintained in the SGA main office and~~ delivered to the Parliamentarian or Clerk of the Senate for preservation.

C. The Clerk of the Court shall work with the Parliamentarian to archive and review past court precedents, so the Supreme Court has all available information possible. The Parliamentarian cannot vote nor voice in debate at any Supreme Court hearing, unless the case pertains to them.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A**  March 21st, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56026**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to provide definition of major changes to student organization’s constitutions

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, student organizations need to report to SGA, and more directly towards the Organizational Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, student organizations before are required to go before the Organizational Oversight Committee of any changes to their own constitutions; and

WHEREAS, the Organizational Oversight Committee currently must approve of any changes that are made to a student organization’s constitution; and

WHEREAS, this process is unnecessary and causes the workload of the Organizational Oversight Committee to increase significantly; and

WHEREAS, student organizations should be able to amend their own constitutions without the need for SGA’s involvement and approval of all minor changes; and

WHEREAS, definition was required of what “changes” are required to be reviewed by the Organizational Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, student organizations that change the status of their own organization that would affect their tier status with SGA should notify SGA of these changes; and

WHEREAS, any large amounts of change to a Constitution should be reviewed for any problems that may arise within the organization; and

WHEREAS, any minor changes to the Constitution should be handled within the student organization itself and does not need to be reviewed always by the Organizational Oversight Committee; and

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

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

SGA Constitution be changed to the following:

**Section 3**

**Maintaining Recognized Status**

1. All recognized student organizations must complete the Annual Renewal process each fall and the Transition process half-way through the year to maintain recognition. This process is to be facilitated by Student Organization staff.
2. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU’s Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
3. Any major modifications or changes to the constitution ~~or bylaws~~ that occur outside of the Annual Recognition or Transition Process must be submitted to and approved by the Organization Oversight Committee. Major modifications to the constitution include but are not limited to:
   1. Changes that restrict or broaden NIU student membership
   2. Changes that pertain to the collection of dues within the organization
   3. The changing of the name of a student organization
   4. More than three (3) sections of updates to the constitution due to an organization using an outdated constitution
   5. Any changes to the constitution that will directly affect the student organization’s tier status
4. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
5. Organizations must have at least the president or vice president of their respective organization to attend CODE training in the fall semester of each academic year. President or vice president must be certified to have completed CODE trainings to receive credit.

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