**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday April 18th, 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, April 17th, 2025.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. *Minutes from April 11th, 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)
    1. *Treasurer Report*
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56031: A bill to update the bylaws to add an article about the Judicial Branch
    2. SB56032: A bill to revise several responsibilities and structure of the Office of the Speaker.
    3. SB56033: A bill to remove temporary recognition and readjust recognition procedures.
13. New Business
    1. SR56042: A resolution to approve the SGA Annual Funding Budget
    2. SB56034: A bill to expand the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee.
    3. SB56035: A bill to codify public comments pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
    4. SB56036: A bill to repeal the stipend for Senators
    5. SB56037: A bill to remove the responsibility of the stipend from the Speaker of the Senate’s Responsibilities
    6. SR56043: A resolution to establish a student-led task force dedicated to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of processed foods on cognitive function and promoting healthier eating habits among NIU students.
    7. SR56044: A resolution that requires all executive clubs and organizations at Northern Illinois University to attend a mental health seminar provided by NIU.
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**  **April 11th,2025**

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56031**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to add an article about the Judicial Branch

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, there are no written responsibilities of the Supreme Court within the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, each branch of SGA has an article about the duties and responsibilities clearly stated in the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch has not been operable all year due to lack of direction and clear written responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch has been operating solely on whatever has been left to them from previous sessions; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Justice shall be added to codify any language about what the Chief Justice shall be able to do in their position; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Court shall be added to codify any language about what the Clerk of the Court shall be able to do in their position; and

WHEREAS, all documents of SGA shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court in order to ensure that they are acting constitutionally and are for the benefit of helping SGA to thrive; and

WHEREAS, adding timelines to the reviews of these documents shall keep the Supreme Court responsible during the year and keep them functional; and

WHEREAS, the process of the petitioning for a Supreme Court case shall be written down to prevent any future miscommunications of SGA and to allow the Supreme Court to hear cases more effectively; and

WHEREAS, there is language now written down to ensure that the Supreme Court shall be effectively operational in the case that the Chief Justice is no longer in their position; and

WHEREAS, there is now language to allow other members of SGA to be involved in the selection of a Chief Justice in the case that the rest of the justices are not effectively able to meet to select a new Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS, procedures are written down in events that the Supreme Court is unable to meet and provide deadlines to select a new Chief Justice to operate more effectively; 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**

**Judicial Branch**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Judicial Branch**

1. The Judicial Branch of SGA shall be made up entirely of the Supreme Court and shall be used interchangeably with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall be made up of at most five (5) SGA Supreme Court Justices that are appointed by the President and that are confirmed by the Senate via majority vote.
   1. The Supreme Court shall be comprised of a Chief Justice, a Clerk of the Court, and at most three (3) Justices other than the Chief Justice and the Clerk of the Court that will serve as Associate Justices.
   2. The Supreme Court shall have a minimum of three (3) justices, which includes the Chief Justice to be able to convene as the Supreme Court. If the number of justices falls below three (3), the Supreme Court shall be unable to convene and must wait for the President to appoint a new justice and for the Senate to confirm via majority vote.
   3. A Supreme Court justice shall serve for the entire time that they remain a full-time student in good standing at NIU.
   4. A Justice must be reappointed to their position if they vacate their position for any reason besides removal.
   5. Any Justice that has been removed from their position as justice is ineligible to reapply to become a member of SGA.
   6. All justices must complete Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training for each year that they serve on the Supreme Court no later than ninety (90) days after their appointment and no later than ninety (90) days after the first day of each Fall Semester that they serve on. Proof of completion shall be submitted to the same place that any other member of SGA will submit their training to. Failure to complete OMA Training within the designated timeline will result in the immediate removal from SGA by the Senate.
2. The Justices shall convene a meeting to appoint and elect a Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall:
   1. Be a currently appointed Justice of the Supreme Court that was appointed and confirmed by Senate.
   2. Have been elected and appointed via majority vote by the Supreme Court. If the Chief Justice vacates their position as Chief Justice, whether through resignation or removal, the Supreme Court shall convene within fourteen (14) days of the vacancy to select a new Chief Justice.
   3. Not be any Supreme Court Justice that was appointed and confirmed in the current session. The only exception to this rule is if all justices were elected within the session.
   4. Oversee and manage all Supreme Court meetings and hearings, in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA).
   5. Report to Senate on all the Supreme Court’s meetings and hearings at the next possible Senate meeting within the session.
   6. Be in good standing with the university.
   7. Run all Supreme Court meetings and shall abstain from all votes except for the following situations:
      1. The total number of Justices is odd, and a tie has formed while voting.
      2. The total number of Justices is even, and a tie has formed from the other Justices due to a Justice having to abstain from the vote.
      3. The Supreme Court must all abstain as they are directly connected to the issue that is being voted on.
3. The Chief Justice must appoint and elect a Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the Court shall:
   1. Be a currently appointed and confirmed Justice of the Supreme Court
   2. Keep accurate and detailed records of any meetings that the Supreme Court has during the session.
   3. Work alongside the Parliamentarian to collect accurate records, details of any hearings, and any other documented materials that the Supreme Court has made during the session. They will also work together on reviewing present and past court decisions and opinions as precedent to the Justices for consideration when undertaking a hearing.
   4. Shall serve as the Clerk of the Court until one of the following conditions are met:
      1. They are no longer a full-time student of NIU in good standing with the university.
      2. Resignation from their position
      3. Removal from their position
      4. The Chief Justice vacates their position, whether by resignation or removal
4. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for reviewing the SGA Constitution and Bylaws and providing any revisions or changes made to either document to be voted on by the Senate. The Supreme Court shall review the SGA Constitution and Bylaws annually.
   1. The Supreme Court shall submit all recommended changes to the Senate, in which legislation shall be drafted to be voted upon by the Senate. The Supreme Court shall send the Chief Justice or a justice if the Chief Justice is unable to attend to give a report on the exact changes that they wish to be made to the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
   2. If the legislation fails to pass, the Supreme Court can revise their recommendations which will be sent back to the Senate to be voted upon again as a new piece of legislation. There can be no more than three (3) attempts at revisions made to the original recommendation.
   3. If there are no changes in the SGA Constitution or Bylaws to recommend to the Senate, the Chief Justice shall still report to the Senate at least once a semester to provide any updates of the Supreme Court’s actions or plans for the next semester.
5. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for creating, maintaining, and amending the Code of Procedures of SGA. The Code of Procedures shall be reviewed at least every other year to ensure the Code of Procedures is up to date on all SGA and university policies.
   1. The Code of Procedures shall serve as the main governing document of the Supreme Court. It shall be a document that is solely written and amended by the Supreme Court. The Code of Procedures shall not supersede the SGA Constitution and Bylaws as well as any federal, state, local, or university policies and rules.
   2. The Code of Procedure must be ratified by the Senate and Supreme Court to go into effect.
   3. A copy of the Code of Procedures shall be given to both the President and Speaker upon assuming their respective offices. A copy of the Code of Procedures shall also be given to each Justice once appointed to the Supreme Court and confirmed by the Senate.
   4. Any amendments, besides grammatical or typographical errors, to the Code of Procedures shall be reported to the Senate at the next possible Senate meeting within the session. The updated copy of the Code of Procedures shall be submitted to both the Office of the Speaker and the President’s office to maintain an accurate record of any changes.
   5. If there are no changes to the Court of Procedure, the copy most recently approved by the Senate and Supreme Court that is on file with either the President or Office of the Speaker, shall be still in effect.
6. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for receiving and reviewing any petitions for all potential Supreme Court cases that are filed with the SGA offices.
   1. The Supreme Court shall meet within two (2) weeks of receiving notice of a petition to decide whether to accept or reject hearing out the Supreme Court petition. The Supreme Court shall notify the petitioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the initial meeting of the Supreme Court’s decision.
   2. The Supreme Court shall decide whether to accept the petition, via vote. This vote must be made within a Supreme Court Meeting and only requires a majority to accept or deny the petition. If the Supreme Court is made up of an even number of justices and a tie has formed from the other Justices due to a Justice having to abstain from the vote, the Chief Justice shall break the tie.
   3. If the Supreme Court chooses to accept the petition, it shall be the duty of the Chief Justice to inform the respondent(s) and the petitioner(s) of the date and time of the Supreme Court case.
   4. It shall be the duty of each justice to inform the rest of the Supreme Court of their bias in any hearing if they are directly correlated to any Supreme Court Case. It is also the duty of each individual justice to abstain from voting, or recuse themselves, on any matter that directly correlates to an organization that they are a part of.
7. The Supreme Court shall have the responsibility to hear any case request regarding an appeal of an original decision. The Supreme Court shall have the ability to overturn any decision in SGA, if the initial decision is deemed to have been unconstitutionally decided.
   1. For the Supreme Court to overturn a decision in SGA, the Supreme Court shall receive a petition for an appeal and must decide on hearing the case. If the case is accepted, the Supreme Court shall treat the appeal case as any other Supreme Court case, which still needs a majority vote to pass or fail.
   2. The Supreme Court can overturn any decision about the permanent removal of a Senator for SGA. The removed Senator must first appeal to the Supreme Court that their removal was unjustly decided. If the Supreme Court agrees with the removed senator, the senator shall not be reinstated for the current session but shall be allowed to rejoin SGA in the following session, pending approval and confirmation by the Senate.
8. In the case that a Chief Justice vacates their current position, the Supreme Court shall convene to select a new Chief Justice from the remaining Justices via majority vote.
   1. The responsibility of the Chief Justice is passed to the Clerk of the Court until the Court can convene to select and vote in a new Chief Justice. The Clerk of the Court automatically takes the role of Acting Chief Justice in the case that the Chief Justice seat is vacant but shall not automatically become the next Chief Justice unless they are voted upon by the rest of the Supreme Court. If the Clerk of the Court is a vacant position, the longest sitting justice shall take up the responsibilities until a new Chief Justice is selected.
   2. If the Supreme Court is unable to convene within the fourteen (14) days to select a new Chief Justice, the President shall make an appointment of a Chief Justice from within the remaining Supreme Court. The President’s Chief Justice appointment must be confirmed by the Senate with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
   3. If the vote for the initial appointment fails, the President must appoint a different Justice which must be confirmed by the Senate as well with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. In the case that the Senate has chosen not to confirm any of the appointments for Chief Justice that the President has made so far and that the next appointment is the last, currently sitting Justice to receive the appointment, the Senate only needs a majority vote to confirm the Justice as the next Chief Justice. If even this vote fails, the Senate must elect a currently sitting Justice as the new Chief Justice via popular vote of the Senate.
   4. If the President does not make an initial appointment within seven (7) days of receiving the responsibility to choose the Chief Justice, the responsibility shall be passed to the Speaker in which legislation shall be written to select a new Chief Justice and the Senate shall nominate, elect, and vote a currently sitting Justice as the new Chief Justice with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. If this vote fails, the process will continue following the same process as aboe until a new Chief Justice if confirmed.

**ARTICLE V**

**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS**

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** BApril 11th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56032**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to revise several responsibilities and structure of the Office of the Speaker.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker serves as a member of the SGA Finance Committee along with the Speaker and several senators throughout the 56th Session;

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker serves as Chairperson of the Organizational Oversight Committee throughout the 56th Session ensuring student organizations pass required constitutional checks that ensures they are eligible for Student Government Association funding;

WHEREAS, over the course of discussions with the SGA Treasurer and processing of AY2025-2026 Annual Funding request, highlighted a need for SGA leadership to have a formal centralized system that tracks the financial subcategories, or tiers, of student organizations on campus; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a centralized repository system under the joint jurisdiction of Student Involvement and Student Government Association will allow for greater efficiency in workflows between the SGA Vice President, SGA Treasurer, SGA Deputy Treasurer, SGA Director of Student Organizations, and Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, the joint repository will allow for greater oversight in ensuring student organizations meet criteria set by SGA and to ensure eligible organizations for funding are informed of their standing and what their tier is; and

WHEREAS, it will allow for student organizations to verify by checking with either individuals mentioned above to determine their tier status for proper funding amounts and ensure smoother request for either annual or supplemental funding, including Executive allocations; 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”;

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended 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:

1. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
2. Legislate all matters of student interest.
3. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
4. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
5. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
6. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
7. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
8. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
9. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
10. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.
11. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.
12. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
13. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
14. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.
15. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.
16. It shall be required of all paid positions to write transitional materials due no later than the first week of March. They are to be entrusted to the Clerk.
17. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent.
18. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
19. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee.
20. The Office of the Speaker shall review all of each member's materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.
21. Facilitate and host a “Town Hall” meeting in which the student body is encouraged to directly ask SGA and specifically The President, Vice President, and Senate questions. The student body should also be encouraged to suggest actions SGA might want to consider moving forward.
22. These meetings should happen at least twice per semester and cannot occur within less than two (2) months from the previous meeting, with the exclusion from academic breaks during the school year
23. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy speaker are required to attend this event barring extreme extenuating circumstances.
24. The Senate shall announce and begin advertising the date, time, and location of these meetings at least one (1) week prior to the event.
25. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy Speaker should make a good faith effort to answer the questions honestly and should work to investigate any suggested actions from the student body.
26. The Senate shall have a number of paid officers, and each shall have duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Senate Operating Rules.
27. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
28. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
29. The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate
30. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for accurate records of the SGA.
31. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:
32. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
33. Be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
34. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by coordinating overall activities of the chairs ande every month, and Senators once every two months.
35. 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.
36. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
37. 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.
38. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
39. Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.
40. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
41. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
42. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to perform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker.
43. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
44. Shall be a paid position.
45. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
46. 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
47. At the discretion of the Speaker.
48. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.
49. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant-at-Arms
50. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
51. Shall preserve order and decorum as directed by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and shall, at the direction of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, have the authority to remove a disorderly individual or group from the Senate chambers.
52. Shall escort all nominees seeking appointment or confirmation to and from the Senate chambers before and after deliberations on their confirmation, respectively. The Senate shall refer to the most up-to-date manual of Robert’s Rules and consider this procedure a closed session.
53. Shall be sensitive to individuals who require special seating for reasons of sight, hearing, etc.
54. Shall enjoy the full rights and privileges extended to all other Senators, including, but not limited to, the right to vote in any and all matters before the Senate.
55. Shall be knowledgeable regarding the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order and shall assist the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in their duties upon request.
56. Shall serve as a member on the Committee on Rules and Procedures.
57. This shall not be a paid position.
58. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
59. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
60. Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislative branches by working alongside the Director of Campus and Environmental Affairs on legislative and policy matters.
61. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association.
62. 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.
63. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
64. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker.
65. Shall maintain a record of all election related materials in both the Senate office and the archives, currently within the Founders Memorial Library.
66. Shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms, in ensuring that members follow Robert’s Ruled of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
67. Shall assist alongside the Clerk of the Senate in the Archival of legislation, documents, recordings, and any other materials for the current session.
68. Shall be a resource of information on past activities and business of the Student Government Association.
69. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures Committee.
70. Shall be a paid position.
71. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function for the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
75. 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.
76. 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.
77. Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association’s Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform.
78. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
79. 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.
80. Shall see to upholding Robert’s Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
81. Shall be a paid position.
82. The Office of the Speaker is the office that contains the Speaker of the Senate and their appointed positions who work and execute the duties required by their positions.
83. All positions that the Speaker of the Senate may appoint such as: Deputy Speaker, Clerk of the Senate, Parliamentarian, or the Sergeant-at-Arms fall under the Office.
84. The Speaker shall oversee the activities of the officers in the Office.
85. The Deputy Speaker shall oversee the Clerk of the Senate, Parliamentarian and Sergeant-At-Arms. The Parliamentarian shall reside at the bottom.
86. Unless specified otherwise, references to the Office of the Speaker shall assume to include the Speaker of the Senate and any other appointed officers.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** C April 11th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56033**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to remove temporary recognition and readjust recognition procedures.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, prior to SR560, a student organization received temporary recognition because the process included steps such as needing to be reviewed and approved before Organizational Oversight Committee and then being confirmed by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, temporary recognition allowed student organizations to be able to reserve rooms through Huskie Hub, but still not be able to request any SGA funding, until the slow bureaucratic process allowed them to be presented and approved in Senate which could take weeks, depending on various elements involved; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of SB56004, the process has been greatly improved as the Organizational Oversight Committee has been empowered to provide full SGA recognition with the only step between a student organization submitting their application and OO approval is review by the Vice President and Director of Organizations to ensure that they have everything that is required by the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, temporary recognition in post-SB56004 does little to help an organization if they will be readily approved and is one further bureaucratic process that can now be retired; and

WHEREAS, removal of temporary recognition helps to incentivize stalled student organizations, regardless of circumstances, to advance more readily through the process; and

WHEREAS, this decrease in the overall time not only allows the Vice President, Director, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee to begin to focus on other aspects of SGA, but it also increases the amount of time that the student organizations could use to establish their presence on campus; and

WHEREAS, this bill cleans up residual effects or language left over, not fixed, or any other grammatical error from the passage of SB56004 to better conform with new procedures set forth and intended after the legislation was passed; 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 resolve that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4**

**Senate Standing Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

Standing committees shall have a total of up to nine (9) members, including the chair and the vice-chair. The SGA Senate shall have the following standing committees:

1. Committee on Campus Life and Greek Affairs
   1. The Committee on Campus Life and Greek Affairs shall be concerned with developing recommendations on making this institution a more desirable one to attend. This committee shall be responsible for the advancement of the University in all areas except those that are the duty of another standing committee, including university services and policies.
   2. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of commuter students and any other matter that relates to commuter students.
   3. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of residents of this campus and any other matter that relates to residents’ needs.
   4. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of Greek students and the residential life on Greek Row.
   5. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinion of the committee members: Director of Student Life, Director of Athletics and Recreation, and Director of Greek Affairs.
   6. The Committee shall be concerned with the academic life of students and improvement of the academic policies that affect students.
   7. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:
      1. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and Residential Services)
      2. ResTech
      3. Campus Child Care
      4. Recreation and Wellness
      5. Career Services
      6. Counseling and Consultation Services
      7. Couple and Family Therapy Clinic
      8. Health Services
      9. Office of the Ombudsperson
      10. Students’ Legal Assistance
      11. Campus Dining
      12. Campus Activities Board
      13. University Writing Center
      14. Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)
      15. Grounds
      16. University Libraries
      17. Tutoring
      18. Student Involvement and Leadership Development
      19. Student Employment
      20. Financial Aid Office
      21. Office of the Bursar
      22. Study Abroad Office
      23. Huskie Safe Line Service
   8. The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the following at least once a semester:
      1. All Greek governing councils
      2. The office of Student Involvement
      3. Resident hall directors
      4. The office of Academic Affairs
   9. The Committee shall give a report to the Senate at least once a semester on the discussions that they have had with the groups outlined in Part I, Article II, Section A.7
2. Committee on Rules and Procedures
   1. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall be concerned with the proper management of the Student Government Association, the University, and/or their subdivisions. The Committee shall review and recommend revision of any procedures, guidelines, rules, or legislation of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Committee.
   2. The Committee shall also be concerned with legislation establishing penalties for violation of university regulations, including judicial penalties.
   3. The Committee shall be concerned with enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules. Those matters relating to student government management, including review of all executive appointments subject to Senate approval, are the responsibility of this Committee. The Committee shall also view all candidates presented to the Senate to fill Senate and Supreme Court vacancies based on past, present, and future contributions to the Student Government Association and the student body as well as review all resolutions to be proposed to the Senate for the proper form according to the Senate’s Operating Rules.
   4. The Committee shall be concerned with the services provided to the student body by the Student Government Association and shall see that these services are maintained at their highest levels of excellence. It will also provide legislative oversight for all Student Government Association services.
   5. The Committee shall ensure efficient communication is maintained among all bodies of the Student Government Association.
   6. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: All SGA Directors.
3. Committee on Public Affairs
   1. The Committee of Public Affairs shall be concerned with the proper advertisement and publicizing the Student Government Association to students.
   2. The Committee shall collaborate with other SGA committees to advertise upcoming and future SGA-sponsored events.
   3. The Committee shall plan and implement community service projects for the Student Government Association to participate in.
   4. The Committee shall plan and execute at least one informational campaign each year that is geared toward recruiting Senators-at-large to fill vacant seats when necessary. Campaign(s) must be submitted to the Speaker for final review prior to implementation and must not interfere with spring elections.
   5. The Committee of Public Affairs shall assist the Director of Public Affairs, when applicable, in publicizing the Student Government Association and its initiatives.
   6. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Public Affairs
   7. The Committee shall design a proposal for an annual information campaign to educate the student body about the services and programs offered or supported by the Student Government Association. The information will be sent to the President of the SGA for review, modification, and consent prior to implementation by the Director of Public Affairs
4. Committee on Campus Life Environmental Affairs
5. The Committee shall be concerned with the improvement of environmental quality on campus as well as contributions to environmental initiatives put forth by the University or the Student Government Association.
6. The Committee shall assist the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs in their initiatives and objectives, especially in regard to communication with organizations.
7. The Committee, under the direction of either the Director or Chair of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs must implement a environmental literacy program that all committee members must go through. They shall attend the program once a semester for how long they serve on the committee.
8. The Committee shall plan and implement a program aimed at educating students about environmental issues with assistance from the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs. This program shall consist of at least one event each semester and must be educational in nature. One event must fall under the purview of Earth Week.
9. The Committee shall attempt to bring environmental and sustainability issues to the attention of campus administrators and encourage their participation in student-initiated changes.
10. The Committee shall serve as representatives for the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs should they not be able to attend committee meetings as listed in the duties.
11. The Committee shall cooperate with existing environmental student organizations, or community partners, to assist and further agendas regarding sustainability.
12. The committee shall establish an annual Campus Sustainability Week either before, or on Earth Week. They shall work with the Director or Chairperson to plan, implement, and execute all activities.
13. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs.
14. Committee on Organization Oversight
    1. The Committee on Organization Oversight shall be concerned with the oversight of student organization functions, including but not limited to: recognition, constitution and bylaw amendments, serving on organization committees, etc. The Organization Oversight Committee will report to the senate on matters regarding student organization procedures, concerns, approvals, etc. One (1) university staff member from the Division of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide further guidance to the committee when needed.
    2. The committee shall also be concerned with having at least one (1) member sit on each the University On-Campus Events Committee, Student Organization Advisory Board, and Leadership Awards Planning Team to stay updated on current student organization operations within the university.
    3. The committee shall also be concerned with being the first step in student organization conflict resolution prior to university staff that handles organizational development followed by the Student Government Association Supreme Court.
    4. The committee shall also be concerned with providing primary approval of new/returning student organizations and referring approved organizations to the Student Government Association Senate.
    5. The committee shall also be concerned with reviewing any constitution and bylaws updates for student organizations and provide approval to said updates for student organizations.
    6. The committee shall also be concerned with making student organization policy recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
    7. The committee shall also be concerned with working with the Vice President and the Director of Organizational Development to successfully complete the Annual Renewal Process.
    8. Members of the Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting full ~~temporary~~ recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting full ~~temporary~~ recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s full ~~temporary~~ recognition.
    9. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Organizational Development.

**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. Office of the President Review
   1. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall collect all necessary recognition forms, documents, and other materials that pertain to the new student organization.
   2. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall take a review of all the materials to ensure that everything required by Student Government Association is met. Upon satisfaction to either party, the Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee
3. 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 the leader(s) of the organization, review its constitution, and make a recommendation to approve or reject the organization for full SGA Senate approval. ~~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 Notification ~~Review~~

Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee must state the organization for which was approved during the committee. The Senate shall be empowered to compel the Chairperson to notify of any organization approvals if after two (2) weeks they have failed to do so at a Senate meeting. The Chairperson’s failure to notify the Senate does not impact the full recognition of the new student organization in any way. ~~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 Organizational 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** April 18th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz, Treasurer Pesavento

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz, Treasurer Pesavento

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56042**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to approve the SGA Annual Funding Budget

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has worked alongside Treasurer Pesavento to establish the annual funding budget for SGA; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has approved all organizations listed in the annual budget for their amounts listed based on the criteria of their organization; and

WHEREAS the criteria for funding student organizations is found in the SGA Bylaws and Finance Operating Manual; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has diligently gone over any future needs for the student body; and

WHEREAS, this is subject to change due to changes in next year’s student allocation to the SGA; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the annual funding budget be approved for the fiscal year of 2025-2026.

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

**Old Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** B April 18th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56034**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to expand the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article IV, §4.E.3 of the Student Government Association Bylaws in the discussion of the responsibilities of the Organizational Oversight Committee states that, “The committee shall also be concerned with being the first step in student organization conflict resolution prior to university staff that handles organizational development followed by the Student Government Association Supreme Court.”; and

WHEREAS, the lack of clear procedures for the public or Organizational Oversight Committee to follow to make this clause in the SGA Bylaws effective is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the removal of this clause is not necessary as there is still merit in the inclusion of this clause; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the issues the SGA Supreme Court has had in the 56th Session in attempting to be operational and hear a case, student organizations must have a clear alternative for remediation in, intra or inter, student organizational conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Committee shall utilize the same precedents or opinions from the previous sessions of the Supreme Court, afforded by the Parliamentarian, to create reasonable and sound judicial remediation; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §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 resolve that the SGA Bylaws be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**ARTICLE X**

**Remediation for Student Organizations**

If a conflict in a student organization arises that it can longer be resolved by the student organizations, then student organizations may contact the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee for a hearing. The procedures should be as follows:

1. The person(s) or organization(s) shall submit a written petition to the Vice President and Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee. The petition shall be responded to within forty-eight (48) hours to hear or reject for consideration.
2. If the petition is rejected the petitioner may write to university staff that handles organizational development for remediation followed by the SGA Supreme Court.
3. If it is determined by the Vice President or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee to take up the petition, each respondent shall be notified and to collect all materials related to the complaint. The meeting to hear about the matter shall be set for the next scheduled Organization Oversight Committee or for another meeting to be scheduled by the Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee within seven (7) days of confirmation.
4. The initial hearing shall allow equal time for each side to present their case and provide the committee to ask questions of each side. No side is allowed to directly confront or ask questions over their case.
5. There shall be a second meeting scheduled no later than seven (7) days after the initial hearing to render a legally binding verdict.
6. Such a verdict shall be discussed by the committee and approved in a two-third (2/3) vote of those present with the Chairperson and Director of Organizational Development having no vote but may be allowed to participate in discussion or debate.
7. The petitioner and respondent shall try to uphold the requirements of the verdict given to them. Any violations, regardless of timeframe, will result in the Chairperson referring the case to university officials or the SGA Supreme Court if necessary. It shall be up to the discretion of the Supreme Court to take the case.
8. If after a period of three (3) weeks, either party may write to university staff that handles organizational development followed by submission of a petition to SGA Supreme Court for consideration of an appeal of the Committees decision. It shall be up to the discretion of the Supreme Court to take the case.
9. The Speaker of the Senate cannot add or remove Senators or the Chairperson of the Organizational Oversight Committee during the remediation period, unless sufficient rationale is provided to Senate. This remediation period shall be the hearing to the final verdict.
10. If the Senate believes that the Speaker removed Senators or Chairperson without sufficient cause they may submit a resolution to be passed to reinstate the removed personnel.
11. Petitioners and respondents are empowered to go straight to university officials that oversee student organizations or to the SGA Supreme Court if they feel that their case should not be discussed within the committee and should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis of the student organizations adviser or university official.

***This legislation is ordered to take effect at the start of the 57th Session.***

**Old Business**  **First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** C  April 18th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56035**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to codify public comments pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act, or OMA, was enacted on July 11, 1957 to help ensure that the public had a right to public gatherings and voice their opinions;    
   
WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University’s Student Government Association (SGA) ensures to comply with OMA regulations.

WHEREAS, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) of the Open Meetings Act states, “Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body”; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association has it’s public comments regulations to help regulate decorum and ensure that the flow of business moves forward in compliance with OMA and Illinois Attorney General legally binding opinions; and

WHEREAS, this bill codifies current precedents whole ensuring they follow OMA provisions; and

WHEREAS, this bill ensures that it follows Illinois Attorney General Public Access Opinion 14-009, issued September 4, 2014, concerning residency limitations which are in violation of OMA and was considered when drafting this policy, and

WHEREAS, this bill ensures that it follows Illinois Attorney General Public Access Opinion 14-012, issued September 30, 2014, concerning advance sign-up requirements which are in violation of OMA and was considered when drafting this policy, and

WHEREAS, this policy is being added to the Student Government Association Bylaws to prevent radical changes from Speaker to Speaker after a given school year and ensure public transparency; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §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 resolve that the SGA Bylaws be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 7**

**Public Comments**

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), in which 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) states, “Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body”. Therefore, the Student Government Association is implementing this policy to ensure decorum and flow of legislation. The Speaker shall have full authority in enforcing these provisions but can delegate enforcement to the Deputy Speaker if they request it. The Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentarian shall also enforce these rules.

1. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment shall submit an “Intent to Speak” form due no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the meeting.
2. People speaking to the Senate shall identify themselves by name.
3. Public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.
4. No topic may not be discussed for more than fifteen (15) minutes.
5. The provisions of intent to speak form and total speaking time for one topic shall be noted on the agenda.
6. No person shall be interrupted in their public comment speaking time unless they violate decorum.
7. Decorum shall be civil and respectful. Public commenters must refrain from profanity, electioneering, or peddling. If members are joining via electronic means, they shall not be allowed to operate a motor vehicle while presenting. They shall retain the option to keep their video feed on or off.

***This legislation is ordered to take effect at the start of the 57th Session.***

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** D April 18th, 2025

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56036**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to repeal the stipend for Senators

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Clerk Corpuz of the 55th Session of the Senate introduced SB55043 to grant Senators a stipend for work on the Senate to incentivize fulfillment of their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 56th Session of the Seante, now Speaker Corpuz, and in tandem with the Office of the Speaker have monitored the progress of Senators in accordance with the Stipend Rubric; and

WHEREAS, although Senators have acheived the minimum qualifications to maintain their seat, the inclusion of the stipend has not incentive increase outreach to constituencies nor increased the flow of legislation from Senators; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of funds to provide for Senator stipends is best allocated to student organizations based on workflow from Finance Committee where Speaker Corpuz and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez serve on; and

WHEREAS, the Senators of the 56th Session shall still be owed compensation for their work done and are thanked for the contributions they have given to Student Government Association and to the students at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, it is up to future sessions of Student Government Association to revisit the idea of stipends if a more effective process is implemented; 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:

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

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

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

***This legislation is ordered to take effect at the start of the 57th Session.***

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** EApril 18th, 2025

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56037**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to remove the responsibility of the stipend from the Speaker of the Senate’s Responsibilities

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Clerk Corpuz of the 55th Session of the Senate introduced SR55061 to add the responsibility of managing the Senator stipend to the Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 56th Session of the Seante, now Speaker Corpuz, and in tandem with the Office of the Speaker have monitored the progress of Senators in accordance with the Stipend Rubric; and

WHEREAS, although Senators have achieved the minimum qualifications to maintain their seat, the inclusion of the stipend has not incentive increase outreach to constituencies nor increased the flow of legislation from Senators; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of funds to provide for Senator stipends is best allocated to student organizations based on workflow from Finance Committee where Speaker Corpuz and Deputy Speaker Gonzalez serve on; and

WHEREAS, the Senators of the 56th Session shall still be owed compensation for their work done and are thanked for the contributions they have given to Student Government Association and to the students at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, it is up to future sessions of Student Government Association to revisit the idea of stipends if a more effective process is implemented; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the Student Government Association Bylaws is unified in language and with the introduction of SB560XX to repeal the Senator Stipend from the SGA Bylaws, this ensures such consistency; 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. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4. The Speaker of the Senate**

1. The Speaker of the Senate shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one (1) year term of office, and shall enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Senator, other than the right to vote. If the Speaker shall also be elected to the Senate, then the Speaker shall have the right to vote. The Speaker shall have the authority to send resolutions or bills to committee for study; this shall not be interpreted to abridge the authority of the Senate to make decisions on resolutions or bills. The Speaker shall be the spokesperson for the Senate.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to enforce all SGA rules within the Legislative Branch. The Speaker shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of the minutes of all Senate meetings, which shall include a record of the attendance of the members of the Senate, within five (5) calendar days of each meeting. The minutes and the record of attendance shall be presented to the Senate at the next regular meeting. The Speaker shall attend meetings and deliver statements on behalf of the Senate and perform all other duties delegated to the Speaker by the Senate.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to instruct all new senators of correct constitutional, bylaw, and parliamentary procedures.
4. The Speaker shall cause to be kept accurate records of Senate meetings, the Operating Rules of the Senate and all committees that report to the Senate.
5. Appoint Senators to all Senate Committees with the approval of the Senate and shall coordinate such committees as necessary.
6. ~~It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to decide the criteria list for the Senator Stipend (which includes the requirements laid out in the SGA Bylaws Part I, Article II: Legislative Branch and those laid out in the Senate Operating Manual).~~
7. ~~It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to decide the potential stipend amount for all Senators to receive at the end of the semester. The Speaker shall propose the stipend amount, based on the criteria list created in SGA Bylaws Part I, Article IV, Section 4.F, at the end of the previous semester. It must receive a majority approval from Senate to pass. If the Senate fails to approve the stipend amount, the SGA Advisor shall ultimately decide the stipend amount.~~
8. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee.
9. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the authority to call off a Senate meeting in extreme cases. However, the Speaker may not call off two consecutive senate meeting without the approval of a majority of the senate. The Speaker’s discretion at canceling the meeting will be put under review by the senate the following meeting. If the reasons for the Speaker in calling off the meeting are deemed invalid, then the Senate is empowered to take action against them.
10. ~~The Speaker of the Senate shall have the power to decide the stipend amount that each Senator should receive at the end of the year, based on the Senator’s completion of their duties and responsibilities and the criteria set by the Office of the Speaker.~~
11. ~~The Speaker shall also have the ability to prevent a Senator from receiving a stipend, with proper reasoning and evidence (including but not limited to the criteria list created in SGA Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.F).~~
12. If the appropriate office (s)or officer(s) fails to amend the Constitution and Bylaws within twenty-one (21) days of passage, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker, who will update the Constitution and Bylaws within fourteen (14) days of the transfer.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: F**   **April 18th, 2025**

**Author:** Senator Chigurupati, Chairperson Crawford

**Sponsor:** Senator Chigurupati, Chairperson Crawford

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56038**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to establish a student-led task force dedicated to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of processed foods on cognitive function and promoting healthier eating habits among NIU students.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, recent scientific research demonstrates significant negative impacts of processed and fried foods on cognitive functions such as memory and concentration, which are crucial for academic success; and

WHEREAS, many students at Northern Illinois University may be unaware of the extent to which their dietary choices impact their brain health and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University has existing resources, including registered dietitians and nutrition coaching programs, that can be leveraged to educate students on healthier food choices; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association has the authority to act as a voice for the students and can promote campus-wide initiatives to improve student well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association desires to support student health and academic excellence by promoting informed food choices.

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact ~~the following~~ that a student-led task force be dedicated to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of processed foods on cognitive function and promoting healthier eating habits among NIU Students.

1. **Establishment of the "Healthy Huskies Brain Initiative" Task Force:**
   * The Student Government Association will create a task force named the "Healthy Huskies Brain Initiative".
   * The task force will consist of at least five (5) student members, appointed by the SGA President and confirmed by the Senate.
   * The task force will include at least one (1) representative from the Food and Nutrition Science Career Program and will seek guidance from NIU's registered dietitians (e.g., Meg Burnham).
2. **Task Force Objectives:**
   * Develop and implement a campus-wide awareness campaign on the cognitive impacts of processed and fried foods, utilizing social media, workshops, and informational materials.
   * Collaborate with Campus Dining Services to promote healthier food options and provide clear labeling of nutritional content, especially regarding processed ingredients.
   * Organize at least two (2) educational events per semester focusing on the benefits of whole, unprocessed foods for brain health and academic performance.
   * Explore opportunities to partner with the Sports Nutrition Program to highlight the performance benefits of healthy eating for athletes.
   * Present recommendations to the SGA Senate on potential long-term strategies for improving campus food policies and reducing the availability of processed foods.
3. **Funding:**
   * The Student Government Association will allocate $$insert dollar amount] from its budget to support the activities of the "Healthy Huskies Brain Initiative" task force, including marketing materials, event costs, and guest speaker fees.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: G**  April 18th, 2025

**Author:** Chairperson Crawford, Senator Chigurupati

**Sponsor:** Chairperson Crawford, Senator Chigurupati

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56044**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution that requires all executive clubs and organizations at Northern Illinois University to attend a mental health seminar provided by NIU.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, mental health is a critical component of student well-being and academic success;

WHEREAS, executive members of clubs and organizations are in positions of leadership and influence, and their awareness of mental health resources and strategies can positively impact their members;

WHEREAS, providing mental health seminars will equip executive leaders with the knowledge and tools to support themselves and their organizations;

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University offers mental health seminars and resources that can be utilized for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the Student Senate has the authority to enact policies that promote the welfare of the student body and enhance the campus environment;

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that all executive clubs and organizations recognized by NIU are required to have their executive board members attend at least one mental health seminar provided by NIU each academic year.

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