**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday April 25th, 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 24th, 2025.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. *Minutes from April 25th, 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. SB56034: A bill to expand the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee.
    2. SB56035: A bill to codify public comments pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
    3. SB56036: A bill to repeal the stipend for Senators
    4. SB56037: A bill to remove the responsibility of the stipend from the Speaker of the Senate’s Responsibilities
13. New Business
    1. A resolution to confirm the Deputy Speaker for the 57th Session.
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 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:** B  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:** C 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:** DApril 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: A** April 25th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker-Elect Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker-ElectGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56047**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Deputy Speaker for the 57th Session.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Article II, §1.P.1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states the Deputy Speaker shall, “be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Sente and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §1.P.2 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states the Deputy Speaker shall, “May be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve,”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker-elect Nathan Gonzalez for the 57th Session has appointed Parliamentarian Eddie Guerrero of the 56th Session as the Deputy Speaker of the Senate for the 57th Session; and

WHEREAS, Parliamentarian Guerrero has not only displayed active engagement within Student Government Association as Senator in the 55th but as Parliamentarian during the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, Parliamentarian Guerrero has displayed the aptitude and knowledge of Office of the Speaker functions to successful and efficiently execute the duties of Parliamentarian, which was a new position created in the 56th Session, but to do the same for Deputy Speaker; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that Senator Eddie Guerrero be appointed as Deputy Speaker for the 57th Session.

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