**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday February 14th , 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, February 13th, 2025.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from February 7th, 2025
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
    1. Vice President Report
    2. Treasurer Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56019: A bill to update the bylaws to include the requirements for committees
    2. SB56020: A bill to redefine Student Government Association legislation.
    3. SR56027: A resolution to remove a sitting senator from office
13. New Business
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** February 7th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56019**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to include the requirements for committees and quorum

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senate committees are comprised of senators mostly and committees are unable to meet due to issues of quorum at certain times, and

WHEREAS, the Speaker may appoint themselves to a committee just to meet quorum if needed; and

WHEREAS, committees need to be organized with a structure that allows them to still meet if other committee members are constantly unavailable to meet; and

WHEREAS, a report must be given about what committees are accomplishing during meetings; and

WHEREAS, these reports allow Senators to know what other committees are planning or working on and help to provide a transparency of the committee’s actions and activities; 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 3**

**Senate Committees**

1. Committee procedures:
2. The Speaker of the Senate will appoint the members of all Senate committees.
3. Appointed shall not require a resolution but must be made in writing.
4. All Senate committees must meet a minimum of three (3) voting members, not including the chair. If the Senate does not have a large enough population to appoint three (3) voting members to a committee and a chairperson, the Speaker must either appoint themself to sit on the committee and to meet the requirement until a new voting member can be appointed to the committee.
5. The Speaker must also appoint a Chair for each committee. The Speaker will serve as Chair for each committee until a Chair is appointed. The Chair will not be included in the total count for quorum but will have the final vote in the case of a tie.
6. All standing committees of the Senate shall meet at least once every fourteen (14) calendar days, when the Senate is in session, and shall submit a ~~written~~ report of each meeting to the Office of the Speaker.
7. The Chair is responsible for submitting a report to the Office of the Speaker and to give the report to Senate. If the Chair is unable to give the report during Senate, the Chair must choose a committee member to provide the report or provide to the Office of the Speaker a written report to be read aloud during Senate.
8. Failure to give a report or meet in the prescribed timeframe shall result in the Chair and/or members being called into Rules and Procedures Committee for a reconciliation of grievances.

***This legislation shall take immediate effect.***

**Old Business First Reading**

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

**Author:** SpeakerCorpuz, DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz**,** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56020**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to redefine Student Government Association legislation.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the definition of legislation does not match the intended direction from the Office of the Speaker.

WHEREAS, establishing a more codified approach of establishing set examples and definitions of legislation will allow for a more uniform way of conducting business; and

WHEREAS, more standardized ways of conducting business will help with archiving, research of Student Government Association past, and efficiency of ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §1.A 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 Constitution be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE IV.  THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 5. Definition of Bills, Statutes, Proposed Resolutions, and Resolutions.**

All request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees shall take one of the following two forms.

A. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding appointing or removing a person from office, ~~a proposed Constitutional Amendment,~~ adoption or amendments to the Senate Operating Rules, punishment or expulsion of senators, and appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution. Any request submitted to the Senate or any of its committees to make a declaration of its will or opinion binding or non-binding, utilizing or not SGA funds, forcing any SGA official to act officially or not, and affects the internal procedures of the Legislative Branch ~~which is non-binding, does not appropriate any funds, and does not require any non-Legislative Branch official to act~~ shall be considered a proposed resolution. ~~All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees that only affects the internal procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be considered a proposed resolution.~~ Upon approval by the Senate the proposed resolution shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All proposed changes to the Senate Operating Rules shall be considered proposed resolutions and, if passed, shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Constitution may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a resolution. A proposed resolution can be voted on the meeting of its first reading.

B. All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees that proposes amendments of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Finance Operating Manual, ~~not mentioned in the paragraph immediately above,~~ shall be considered a bill. When a bill is passed by the Senate and signed by the President it shall become a statute of the SGA. Except for spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes, all proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be considered bills and, if passed, shall be considered a statute of the SGA. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Bylaws may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a bill. It shall take two (2) weeks for any proposed bill to be voted on. The first week is the first reading with no vote of approval allowed. The second week shall be the second round of reading and can be voted for approval.

C. The fact that a given bill may use or non-use terms such as “whereas” or “resolved” does not make it a proposed resolution; nor does the use or non-use of such terms in a proposed resolution make it a bill.

D. All proposed resolutions and bills must abide by the template found in the Senate Operating Manual. Only bills and resolutions being read for the first time may appear in New Business of the Senate agenda. Otherwise, all bills and resolutions tabled by a vote or automatically, including legislation that was sent to be edited and already read to the Senate shall appear in Old Business in the Senate agenda.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

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

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56027**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to remove a sitting senator from office

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senator Albino Rosales has served on the 56th Session SGA Senate since the start of the year; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosales has been a part of SGA for more than two sessions and understands the responsibilities of being a senator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosales is a chair of a committee due to their experience on the committee during previous sessions, and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosales has been contacted on multiple occasions by the Office of the Speaker to provide some information and updates on the committee; and

WHEREAS, lack of communication and information has consistently caused the committee to be inactive and unaware of any form of direction with the committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosales has failed to provide any information about the inability to communicate with any member of the Office of the Speaker or their committee about holding meetings or their responsibilities as a current Senator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Rosales has failed on multiple occasions to provide updates from Computing Facilities Advisory Committee, a university-level committee they volunteered to represent SGA for; and

WHEREAS, no current corrective action can be taken at this time for a senator besides removal;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that Senator Rosales shall be removed from all positions held within SGA.

***This legislation shall take immediate effect.***