**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday November 15th, 2024 – 4:00 PM**

**Holmes Student Center Capitol 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, November 14th, 2024.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from November 8th, 2024
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
    1. Treasurer Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56012: A bill to update and simplify the definition of supplemental funding.
    2. SB56013: A bill to update and simplify the definition of executive allocation.
    3. SB56014: A bill to clarify the transition process of elected paid officials.
    4. SR56014: A resolution to confirm the Spring 2025 Board of Elections
13. New Business
    1. SB56015: A bill to establish an international representative seat on Senate.
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** November 8th, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56012**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and simplify the definition of supplemental funding.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee shall be in charge of the allocation of supplemental towards student organizations; and

WHEREAS, current phrasing provides ambiguity on definitions and procedures that do not reflect proper operations; and

WHEREAS, added clarity allows the SGA Treasurer to streamline the supplemental funding requests process for student organizations; and

WHEREAS, added clarity will make the SGA Finance Committee meet on a weekly basis to handle more requests, work on other tasks given by the SGA Treasurer, and support future operational efficiency of the committee; 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 V**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES**

**Section 1**

**Supplemental Funding**

1. Supplemental Funding is defined as funding made available to ~~SGA recognized organizations or departments that is supplemental to what is already in their budget, regardless of the funding source.~~ only SGA recognized organizations that is supplemental to their annual budget. Supplemental funding is only available once an organization’s annual budget is exhausted or to complement the remaining annual funds.
2. The total Supplemental Funding budget each year will be divided evenly between each semester, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Supplemental Funding budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.
3. Organizations requesting Supplemental Funding must adhere to the following process:
4. An application form, including reasoning for funding request and breakdown of anticipated budget, must be submitted via NIU’s organization platform, Huskie Hub, which if they are organized under a council or department should be submitted through that council or department, this includes but is not limited to sports clubs under the Recreation Center and fraternities or sororities under Greek council and all similar situations.
5. The application form will be forwarded to the SGA Treasurer, who will then review the form and present the application ~~schedule a date with the organization to present the request~~ to the SGA Finance Committee for full approval, partial approval, or rejection. ~~This meeting must take place within two (2) weeks of the submission of the application.~~ SGA Finance Committee shall meet every week when Senate is in session to hear supplemental requests.
6. The organization shall receive notification of their funding only through the Student Government Association or SGA Treasurer email ~~Student Government Association email~~ and shall only respond with questions or concerns to the stated ~~the SGA~~ email or the Student Involvement accounting department(s) chosen form of contact. Continuously contacting individuals associated with the finance committee, accounting department, or SGA as a whole privately via social media, ~~private~~ any email, or in person without scheduling a meeting in regards to the decision made by the finance committee may be viewed as harassment ~~can result in loss of funding at the discretion of the finance committee.~~
7. The SGA Finance Committee can rescind granted supplemental funds as a result of harassment. This may prevent future requests for supplemental funding due to harassment at the discretion of the Finance Committee.
8. Organizations receiving Supplemental Funding shall use such funding only for the purposes approved by the SGA Finance Committee. It is the committee’s responsibility to ensure that requests contain provisions for how the money is to be spent. The regular expenditure process is to be followed to ensure that such funding is being used in accordance with the specific request as well as all other SGA and university guidelines.

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

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

**Agenda Item: B**    November 8th, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56013**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and simplify the definition of executive allocation.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee shall be in charge of the allocation of funds towards student organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch has funds available to be given to student organization for specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, current procedures and definitions create an obstacle for student organizations requesting additional funds for large campus events or initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws are required to provide a general oversight of funding for student organizations and does not need an in-depth parameters for procedures; and

WHERAS, long complicated guidelines that would have to be continuously updated by Senate due to University, or otherwise, funding fluctuations can cause delay to student organizations; and

WHERAS the Executive Guidelines that are set forth to student organization when funding is requested is an obligated set of conditions set forth by the University and the state; and

WHEREAS, coordination between the Executive and Legislative is imperative for proper governmental functions

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 V**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES**

**Section 2**

**Executive Allocations**

1. Executive Allocations are defined as funding made available by the SGA President for larger campus initiatives. ~~These initiatives are defined as initiatives that may be department sponsored, collaborations between student organizations, and serve a larger portion of campus. Requesters must be able to demonstrate how the funds will serve the larger student body and/or further serve the mission, vision, and values of the university.~~ Further clarification on the definition can be found in the Finance Operating Manual.
2. The total Executive Allocation budget each year will be divided evenly between fall and spring semesters, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Executive Allocation budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to update and maintain the definitions and process of Executive Allocation with the most current Finance Operating Manual et by the Treasurer, the Office of Student Involvement, the University, and the state. All requesters must consult with the most recent Finance Operating Manual to understand the applicable definitions and the entire process.
4. ~~Organizations and departments requesting an Executive Allocation must adhere to the following process:~~
5. ~~An application form, including reasoning for funding request and breakdown of anticipated budget, must be submitted online via NIU’s Student Organization Platform.~~
6. ~~The application form will be forwarded to the SGA Treasurer, who will then review the form and forward it to the SGA President for full approval, partial approval, or rejection. The decision to approve or deny a request must take place within two (2) weeks of the submission of the application.~~
7. ~~If deemed necessary by the SGA Finance Committee, they may review the Executive Allocation decision and veto it. The SGA Finance Committee must hear the review within two (2) weeks of the decision of allocation approval.~~
8. If the SGA President is affiliated with the entity requesting funds, approval of the request shall be handled by the SGA Vice President. If the SGA Vice President is also affiliated with the entity, approval of the request shall be handled by the next officer in the Presidential order of succession who is not affiliated with the entity.

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

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

**Agenda Item: C** November 8th, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56014**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to clarify the transition process of elected paid officials.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, transition materials provide the incoming administration invaluable information in operational functions and overview of expectations of the office outside of the governing documents; and

WHEREAS, large gap between election and when the newly-elected officials can hinder progress for student government as each administration will have to keep learning by error; and

WHEREAS, not all transitional materials are created or elected by the current clauses found in the Student Government Association Bylaws or Constitution; and

WHEREAS, such clarifications only applied to paid positions of Student Government Association as it’s the responsibility for leadership to train new Senators or other support staff that are not paid; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of outgoing administrations training elected officials will help with on hand learning and retention and invigorate a sense of community and duty; and

WHEREAS, it’s in the best interest of the Northern Illinois University community for there to be a smooth transition of power and operations; and

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

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

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate**

1. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website
2. 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.
3. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent
4. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
5. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee
6. The Office of the Speaker shall review all of each members materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.

**ARTICLE III**

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 3**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch**

The Student Government Association Executive Branch shall have the following duties and responsibilities when acting in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Coordinate all Student Government Association activities to ensure the success of the organization.
2. Investigate issues of student interest using Senate and non-Senate persons.
3. Initiate and recommend legislation to the Student Senate.
4. Act for the student government in situations in which immediate action is necessary.
5. Allocate financial expenditures to a maximum of five (5%) percent of the total Student Activity Fee collected during the fiscal year. A written report will be filed with the Senate Speaker and the SGA Treasurer within four (4) business days following the executive allocation.
6. Supervise Student Government Association committees to ensure their efficient functioning based on the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.
7. To establish ad hoc committees of the SGA, such as taskforces, etc., and/or conduct hearings. Establishment includes the determination of the organization, membership, and non-management duties of the ad hoc committees.
8. The President shall conduct at least one (1) comprehensive evaluation of all paid SGA executive branch staff members, other than the elected officers, each semester. Staff evaluations are to be conducted by the tenth (10th) week of each semester. The Evaluations shall include recommendations as to how to improve. The President must report the evaluation immediately to the Senate after it is completed. The Chief of Staff shall help the President in the evaluation process.
9. The President of the SGA shall address Northern Illinois University’s student body and the Student Government Association’s Senate by speaking on the state of the student government and student interest.
10. It will be the responsibility of the SGA to review the following listed organizations and services and provide funding to enhance the quality of life for NIU students: Campus Child Care, Health Enhancement, Huskie Bus System, Huskie Tracks (GPS Bus Locator), Organizational Expo, Organizational Development, Recreation Services, Student Legal Service, Campus Security Fund, Go Student Leaders, Organizational Blackboard Community, SGA Study Abroad Initiative, and SGA Senator Study Abroad Scholarship.
11. Executive Branch Members are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act training as directed by the SGA Operating Manual. Executive branch members are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
12. Executive Branch Members are required to write transitional materials due no later than the first week of March. They are to be entrusted to the President or Chief of Staff.
13. If their successor has already been elected for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent to train them accordingly.
14. The Chief of Staff is responsible for collecting Director transitional materials and providing it to the next administration.
15. If no materials are collected by the deadline, then the President can speak to the official to reconcile the lapse in duty. If the President does not submit materials, the Vice President or Chief of Staff may remind them of their responsibility.
16. The Executive Branch shall review all of each members materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: D** November 8th, 2024

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56014**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Spring 2025 Board of Elections

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Part II, Article I, §5 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “Nominations for the Board of Elections shall take place no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of November. The Board of Elections shall also be appointed at the next consecutive meeting.”; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws stipulate that the five (5) persons receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws also stipulate that “The two (2) people receiving the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) highest number of votes shall be designated as alternate members of the Board of Elections, to become full members if other members are removed or resign during the election process.”; and

WHEREAS, “The two individuals that the Senate decides to be the alternates for the Board of Elections must be listed in the order in which they will assume the seats if a vacancy occurs. This order should be that the person receiving the 6th highest vote should be given first preference, the person receiving the 7th highest vote should be given second preference.”; and

WHEREAS, “If there is not an Election Commissioner appointed, the Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Chairperson of the Board of Elections. The Senate shall vote, with each Senator having one vote. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the individuals in consideration for the Board of Elections be confirmed as members of the Student Government Association Board of Elections for the Spring 2025 Election.

**Election Commissioner Nominations**

**Board of Elections Member Nominations**



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

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

**Agenda Item**: A  November 15th, 2024

**Author:** Senator Samuel, Senator Udoh, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Senator Samuel, Senator Udoh, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56015**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to establish an international representative seat on Senate.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University hosts a diverse international student population contributing to the University’s academic and cultural environment; and

WHEREAS, International students face unique challenges and have specific needs that no other constituency group can present; and

WHEREAS, cultivating an international seat will allow international students be represented to the Student Government Association and the University; and

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

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

**ARTICLE III**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY**

**Section 1**

**Legislative Qualifications**

1. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:
2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not exceed seventy-five (75) seats.
3. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than twenty (21) seats.
4. Every Senate session should have available the following seats at minimum.
5. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by at least two students who occupies two (2) seats per college.
6. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy one (1) seat.
7. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy two (2) seats.
8. International students shall occupy two (2) seats.
9. Underserved student communities shall occupy seven (7) seats and shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies, with one to be allocated to a Graduate student.
10. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy four (4) seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy these seats.
11. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing underserved communities.
12. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should reserved for senators representing the university at large.
13. A minimum of ten percent (10%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing university provided housing.
14. A minimum of ten percent (10%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing international students.
15. The rest of the seats shall be reserved based on enrollment and housing data, gathered from the division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications from the most current enrollment data done by 31st of January, such that there is one seat for every one thousand (1000) students rounded to the nearest whole number seat.
16. All questions and disputes regarding the seat status of any candidate or student shall be directed to the Election Commissioner. Decisions of the Election Commissioner on the disputes referenced immediately above may be appealed to the Board of Elections.

***This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect for the Spring 2025 Elections.***