**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday September 20th, 2024 – 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, September 19th , 2024.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
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. Student Treasurer Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56001: A bill to update the SGA Bylaws to allow organizations to be recognized if restricted by a national organization.
    2. SB56002: A resolution to reorganize and update the Senate Line of Succession as Temporary Speaker of the Senate
13. New Business
    1. SR56003: A resolution to call upon the Supreme Court to meet and select a new Chief Justice
    2. SB56003: A bill to update and simplify the oversight of organizational funding requirements
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**  **September 13th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56001**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the SGA Bylaws to allow organizations to be recognized if restricted by a national organization.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, student organizations are required to have a constitution that is reviewed by the Organizational Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, organizations can be restricted by a national organization from authoring a local constitution that could be edited to meet the requirements to be recognized by SGA; and

WHEREAS, student organizations are required to have the Northern Illinois University non-discrimination clause in their constitutions; and

WHEREAS, student organizations should still allow to be recognized, as long as there is a non-discrimination clause in the organization’s national constitution; and

WHEREAS, this new exception shall allow an organization to be recognized by SGA, along the basis that they meet the requirements of being an organization maintained by the Organizational Oversight 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:

**Section 2**

**Membership and Required Positions**

1. Every student organization must have at least one (1) advisor
2. Student organizations must have at least three (3) interested members who are NIU Students to receive initial recognition.
3. Student organizations that cannot maintain at least three (3) members registered in NIU’s Student Organization Platform must work with staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.
4. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President.
5. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.
6. Every organization shall include the following non-discrimination statement in their constitution:
   1. As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX. However, registered student organizations may limit their membership and leadership to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization’s sincerely held beliefs or statement of principles, comply with the organization’s standards of conduct, and further the organization's mission or purpose as defined by the organization.
7. The only exceptions to Part F immediately above are as follows:
   1. Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
   2. Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
   3. Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those elected from the constituent groups.
   4. A student organization may outline in their constitution a desire to be a restrictive organization, where full membership and full participation is selected by a clearly outlined democratic process. A restrictive organization shall be unable to request any funding from the Student Government Association.
   5. Student organizations that are part of a national organization and are restricted from establishing a local constitution at NIU can be exempt, pending review by the Organizational Oversight Committee. The student organization shall provide physical evidence and the national organization’s constitution before the organization can receive temporary recognition as a student organization.
8. Any organization that offers certain privileges or opportunities t to a limited membership must clearly outline in their constitution how the organization’s regular membership is provided with ample opportunity for involvement.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: B**  **September 13th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56002**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to reorganize and update the Senate Line of Succession as Temporary Speaker of the Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the succession as Speaker of the Senate has positions that no longer exist in SGA and positions that have been created as of the 55th Session; and

WHEREAS, Senate needs a clear line of succession to be Temporary Speaker of the Senate based on their current highest position if the Speaker is no longer able to responsibly carry out their duties; 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 6**

**Senate Order of Succession**

If at any time during their one-year term in office the Speaker of the Senate chooses by their own free will or is forced to ~~pass~~ ~~as chair in a situation~~ step down from their position temporarily, ~~the Senate Order of Succession will take place to determine who assumes the Temporary Speaker of the Senate role. The title of Temporary Speaker of the Senate is only for the length of time that a piece of legislation is on the floor and once the legislation has been decided, then the Speaker of the Senate will assume the chair position once again until such a time they choose by their own free will or are forced to pass on the chair again.~~ the Temporary Speaker of the Senate will be chosen from the Senate Order of Succession and will serve until the vote has been finalized in the case of legislation, in which the Speaker of the Senate can assume the position once again. In the case that the Speaker is removed from their position or chooses to step down indefinitely, the Temporary Speaker of the Senate will be chosen from the Senate Order of Succession and will serve until the end of the term or choose to pass to the position in line of the Senate Order of Succession. If a person serves multiple positions on the Senate Order of Succession, they will represent the highest position and shall not be eligible to be on the Order of Succession for any lower positions. The Senate order of Succession is as follows:

1. Deputy Speaker of the Senate
2. Legislative Director
3. Historian
4. Sergeant at Arms
5. Chair of Organization Oversight Committee
6. Chair of Public Affairs Committee
7. Chair of ~~Campus~~ Student Life and Greek Affairs Committee
8. Chair of Campus Life Environmental Affairs Committee
9. Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
10. Director of Community Service
11. Most Senior Senator as determined by most amount of time in office.

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

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

**Agenda Item: A**  **September 20th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56003**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to call upon the Supreme Court to meet and select a new Chief Justice

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the previous Chief Justice has been removed as of the previous session; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court does not have a current Chief Justice at the current moment; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court requires a Chief Justice to hold a meeting and hear cases brought before them; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court does not meet quorum at this current moment; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Constitution Article V, Section 3, §B states, “The five (5) Justices of the court shall elect one of their number to serve as Chief Justice. The Court shall have one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.”

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the SGA Supreme Court be called to meet and select a new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

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

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

**Agenda Item: B**   **September 20th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56003**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and simplify the oversight of organizational funding requirements

**Legislation:**

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

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has a set list of requirements to approve or deny funding requests by student organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee shall notify student organizations of the conditions needed to receive funding from SGA; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws are required to cover a general oversight of funding for student organizations and does not need an in-depth review of the Finance Committee’s parameters for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Guidelines that are set forth to student organizations when funding is requested is an obligated set of rules set forth by the University and the state; 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 VI**

**FUNDING OVERSIGHT**

**Section 1**

**General Oversight**

~~All organizations using SGA allocated funds must adhere to all SGA Treasurer rulings, SGA Supreme Court rulings, SGA policies, NIU policies, the Student Organization Handbook, and related laws. Failure to do so will result in the organization being placed on suspended status and/or loss of SGA recognition. Departments are also subject to this oversight as it relates to receiving SGA allocated funds. Some of these rules include but are not limited to:~~

1. ~~Reusable Items shall be returned to be stored by the SGA for future student use.~~
2. ~~Funding shall not recover spent money by applicants.~~
3. ~~No physical cash will be delivered to applicants.~~
4. ~~Funding for food shall only feed students.~~
5. ~~SGA will not purchase gift cards for applicants.~~
6. ~~Any purchases for merchandise must only be for the members of an organization.~~
7. ~~No funding will go directly to funding a philanthropic cause.~~
8. ~~All funding requests for organizations under Councils, Centers, or Departments should attempt to go through those bodies first and sent by them to the Finance Committee of the SGA.~~
9. ~~Funding may not be spent on interstate travel if applicants do not respond to requests for information within two business days.~~
10. ~~All communication should only go through the SGA email and accountancy department unless in person meetings have been scheduled.~~
11. ~~Use of SGA funding shall be accompanied by using the SGA logo and tagging SGAs current social media account in all promotional materials and posts.~~
12. ~~The SGA may reduce the amount guaranteed in funding if the preliminary budget does not meet the final cost.~~

All organizations that receive funding from SGA are required to follow all rulings and policies made by the SGA Treasurer, Finance Committee, SGA Supreme Court, and NIU organization-related laws. The Finance Committee shall regulate and maintain requirements for organizational funding in accordance with the most current Purchasing Guidelines set by the Office of Student Involvement, the University and the state. Failure to follow any rulings or policies may result in an organization’s suspension or loss of SGA recognition.

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