**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday November 1st , 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, October 31st, 2024.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from October 25th, 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. President Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56007: A bill to update the responsibilities of the Board of Elections
    2. SB56008: A bill to update the bylaws to allow senators to speak to the press with certain restrictions
13. New Business
    1. SB56009: A bill to consolidate the positions of Historian, Director of Community Service and Legislative Director into the Parliamentarian.
    2. SB56010: A bill to update and simplify the tiers of organizational funding.
    3. SB56011: A bill to update the committee’s procedures and conduct of 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.

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

**Agenda Item:**A October 18th, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56007**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the responsibilities of the Board of Elections

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Student Government Association needs to ensure that accountability, transparency, and due process are maintained before, during and after, elections are held; and

WHEREAS, organizational affiliation should not control the entirety of a single entity like Board of Elections; and

WHEREAS, BOE members should not be voting when they must remain impartial during election season; and

WHEREAS, Senate is providing Senators with a stipend; and

WHEREAS, members of BOE receive a stipend for their work during election season; and

WHEREAS, members of BOE can be Senators and cannot receive both stipends as of the current stipulation; and

WHEREAS, the changes allow Senators who serve on BOE to receive the stipend for being on BOE and for their responsibilities as a Senator; 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**

**Section 2**

**Election Commissioner**

1. To hold the office of Election Commissioner, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
2. Must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students or 3.00 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
3. Shall be paid the same hourly rate as the highest paid executive staff member for each hour worked. No person shall become Election Commissioner who already holds a paid position within the SGA.
4. An undergraduate student must be enrolled for twelve (12) semester hours in the same semester in which they shall serve; all other students must also be enrolled for nine (9) semester hours.
5. Shall disclose their organizational affiliation to the Office of the Speaker and inform them of any affiliation changes
6. When the Senate is in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President for the Spring Election with the approval of the Senate. The Senate shall have oversight authority over the performance of the Election Commissioner.
7. When the Senate is not in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections. The Election Commissioner so appointed will hold office until the Senate can convene. If the President is unable to reach an agreement with the Board as to the appointment of an Election Commissioner, then the Speaker shall appoint the Election Commissioner with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections.
8. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include
9. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
10. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy.
11. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
12. All rulings of the Election Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
13. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) in the weeks preceding the week of Spring Elections.
14. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
15. The Election Commissioner shall only be removed during an election through resignation, the Supreme Court, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
16. The Election Commissioner shall be ineligible to run or vote in any general election or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
17. The Election Commissioner shall have final say on all election proceedings unless a decision is overridden by a majority vote of the Board of Elections or the SGA Supreme Court.

**Section 3**

**Board of Elections**

1. To serve on the Board of Elections, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or be the defendant in any civil or criminal procedures with the University is also a party. The student must also have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. There is no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections.
2. ~~``~~Board of Elections members shall receive a stipend, except for the Election Commissioner. A person who already holds an hourly rate paid position within the Student Government Association is eligible to receive a stipend. ~~No person shall hold more than one Student Government Association stipend position at one time.~~ It shall be up to the discretion of the Election Commissioner to decide on the dollar amount of the stipend each year, with consent from the Senate in the form of a vote. If the Election Commissioner is unable to set this stipend, the Senate shall be empowered to do so by a majority vote. No member of the current Board of Elections may vote on said stipend.
3. When the Senate is in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedure:
4. All persons interested in becoming members of the Board of Elections shall be nominated at a Senate meeting by a member of the Senate. Nominees need not be members of the SGA.
5. Those who shall qualify to hold a position on the Board of Elections shall appear at the same Senate meeting. The Senators shall vote on all candidates for membership on the Board of Elections at the same time. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote. Senators who are being considered for positions on the Board may not vote in the determination of Board members. The vote shall not commence until there are at least five (5) nominees.
6. The five (5) people receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board. If a tie vote occurs, then the Senate shall vote again only to break the tie and decide between those who are tied.
7. The Senate meeting at which members of the Board of Elections are appointed shall be selected at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate with the approval of the Senate.
8. 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.
9. 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, according to ranked choice voting rules. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.
10. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
11. The members of the Board of Elections shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate with approval of the President and the Vice President.
12. Authority and duties of the Board of Elections are as follows:
13. The Board of Elections, composed of five (5) members and the Election Commissioner, will oversee the proper administration of all Student Government Association student elections and referenda and perform other duties as set forth herein.
14. The Board of Elections members shall have the authority to issue sanctions to any candidates, their supporter(s),or any other person interfering with an election. The Board of Elections shall also have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
15. The Board of Elections shall have the sole authority to disqualify any candidate(s) for office or election. The Board shall do so with a majority vote.
16. All rulings of the Board of Elections shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association Office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business.
17. At its first meeting, the Board of Elections shall nominate and confirm by majority vote a Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Minutes for Board of Elections meetings shall be recorded, but not released publicly until the conclusion of the election season.
18. Quorum for the Board shall consist of three (3) members. Board rulings can only be made when quorum is reached. If the Chair is not present at a meeting, the Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.
19. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
20. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
21. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
22. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
23. The Board of Elections shall, prior to the beginning of the election, be required to update the seats of the Senate for the next session as described in Part II Article III Section 1 A.
24. A member of the Board of Elections shall only be removed during an election, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elections, excluding the Board member in question, or in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
25. The members of the Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run or vote in any general election ~~direction~~ or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
26. Organizational representation on the Board of Elections shall be no more than fifty (50) percent of the total make-up.

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

**­­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: B**   **October 25th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56008**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to allow senators to speak to the press with certain restrictions.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, past sessions have set a precedent for Senator’s not to speak to the press; and

WHEREAS, SGA Senate is represented by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker; and

WHEREAS, Senators thoughts and opinions can be misconstrued to be the entire Senate’s opinion and beliefs; and

WHEREAS, SGA Senate wants to remain a cohesive body in matters decided during meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the Senate serves as the main representative of the Senate and should be the one handling any questions regarding the entirety of Senate; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker serves under the Speaker and can represent the Speaker in cases where the Speaker is unavailable or unable to be present; and

WHEREAS, Senators will be allowed to speak to the press on the condition that they make it known that their opinion is not the main opinion of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senators shall direct anyone asking for the overall opinion of the Senate to speak with the Speaker of the Senate; 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 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:
   1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
      1. 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.
      2. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
      3. 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.
   2. 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.
      1. 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.
   3. 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.
   4. 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.
   5. 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.
3. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours 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 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.
4. 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.
   1. 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.
   2. 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.
   3. 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.
   4. 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.
   5. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
   1. Senator’s are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules of Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks’ notice of the disciplinary action.

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

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

**Agenda Item: A**     November 1st, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56009**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to consolidate the positions of Historian, Director of Community Service, and Legislative Director into the Parliamentarian.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Article II §1.O & Article II §1.P of the Student Government Association Bylaws governs the positions of the Legislative Director and the Historian; and

WHEREAS, the rationale for the creation of the Historian outlined in SAB49005 no longer apply due to consistent bylaw changes since the 49th session; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Director, Director of Community Service and Historian have had large gaps of time when people have filled those positions; and

WHEREAS, some of the provisions of the Legislative Director are taken by the Director of Campus and Environmental Affairs and some Historian duties overlap with the Clerk of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, such changes shall consolidate leadership positions and ensure that the Office of the Speaker is efficient; 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. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
2. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
3. 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.
4. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association
5. 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.
6. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate
7. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker
8. Shall maintain a record of all election related materials in both the Senate office and the archives, currently within Founders Memorial Library.
9. Shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in ensuring that members follow Roberts’ Rules of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
10. Shall assist alongside the Clerk of the Senate in the archival of legislation, documents, recordings, and any other materials for the current session.
11. Shall be resource of information on past activities and business of Student Government Association.
12. Shall serve on Rules and Procedures Committee.
13. Shall be a paid position.
14. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Legislative Director. The Legislative Director:~~
15. ~~Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.~~
16. ~~Shall monitor all state and federal legislation pertaining to higher education and maintain relationships with appropriate legislators and executive officers.~~
17. ~~Shall monitor all local policy that pertains to the students of Northern Illinois University. The director shall maintain relations with local elected and appointed officials.~~
18. ~~Shall work with the DeKalb registrar to host at least one voting registration drive in coordination with the Director of Governmental Affairs.~~
19. ~~Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislation branches with the Director of Governmental Affairs on legislative and policy matters.~~
20. ~~Shall prepare and send a weekly Senate legislative update to the Chief of Staff on the legislation passed within 48 hours of the previous Senate meeting,~~
21. ~~Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures committee.~~

~~8. Shall not be a paid position.~~

1. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Student Government Association Historian. The Student Government Association Historian:~~
2. ~~Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via simple majority vote.~~
3. ~~Shall oversee archiving all past Student Government Association business in the Senate office, the Executive office, and Founders Memorial Library.~~
4. ~~Shall be in charge of creating and maintaining an archive at the Regional History Center in conjunction with the Center’s Local Government Records collection as part of the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system administered by the Illinois State Archives.~~
5. ~~Shall be in charge of recording all student campaign materials during Senate and Executive elections in the archives at Founders Memorial Library.~~
6. ~~Shall create a master list of past and current voter turnout election results that will be filed in the archive at Founders Memorial Library.~~
7. ~~Shall create a printed/digital archive of Student Government Association Senate legislation to be saved both in the archive at Founders Memorial Library and in the Senate office.~~
8. ~~Shall be a paid position.~~
9. ~~This position may be considered as an internship in collaboration with the NIU Department of History if so desired by the Senator. All internship materials must be agreed upon by both the Student Government Association and the supervising faculty member from the Department of History.~~
10. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Director of Community Service. The Director of Community Service:~~
11. ~~Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.~~
12. ~~Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.~~
13. ~~Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senators at the direction of the Speaker.~~
14. ~~Shall collect, record, and verify all public relations forms turned in by Senators at the direction of the Speaker.~~
15. ~~Shall attend Rules and Procedures committee during considerations of removal of Senators for failure to comply with community service requirements.~~
16. ~~Shall not be a paid position.~~

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

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

**Agenda Item: B**     November 1st, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56010**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and simplify the tiers of organizational funding.

**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 categories to allocate student organizational funding; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws are required to cover a general oversight of funding for student organizations and does not need an in-depth parameters for funding; 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 Tier Funding Guidelines that are set forth to student organization when funding is requested is an obligated set of conditions et 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 II**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Section 2**

**Finance Subcategories**

1. ~~The annual budget shall consist of four (4) subcategories. The annual budget requests for the Student Government Association recognized organizations and certain university departments and offices shall be reviewed in each of these assigned categories as determined by the SGA Finance Committee. Funds allotted to each SGA-recognized organization will be allocated within funding levels for each subcategory. Each subcategory’s funding level will be set by the Finance Committee in the second meeting of the Spring semester.~~
2. ~~Any individual on the SGA Finance Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting Student Government Association funding. Furthermore, individuals currently serving or who have previously served in organizations requesting funding must abstain from voting and discussion and debate on the consideration of that organization’s budget request.~~
3. ~~The individual subcategories are as follows:~~
4. ~~Tier 1: University Departments and Department Organizations. These are defined as having office space on campus, office staff, and having a direct responsibility to the student body. There shall be no maximum for funding requests and no requirement to present budgets to the Finance committee.~~
5. ~~Tier 2: Governing Councils and Sports and Recreation. These are defined as any entity where a middleperson(s)/entity is involved for the distribution of funds to those under their oversight. There shall be no maximum for funding requests. Budget presentations to the Finance Committee are required.~~
6. ~~Tier 3: Academic and Department Affiliated Organizations. These are defined as organizations affiliated with a specific academic interest or university department serving a larger section of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed $2500. Budget presentations to theFinance Committee are not required.~~
7. ~~Tier 4: Sponsored Student Organizations. These are defined as organizations with a focus that serves their specific membership and have no real responsibility to the rest of the student body. The maximumamount of annual funding requested shall not exceed $500. Budget presentations to the Finance Committee are not required.~~
8. ~~Tier 3 and Tier 4 Organizations that are not sport clubs or sport organizations but attend/engage in competitions, may be eligible for additional annual funding from SGA. This additional funding may not exceed $2500. To Qualify for the funding, the organization must meet the following criteria . . . 1. Must be eligible for annual funding. 2. Must have a minimum of three (3) yearly competitions. 3. Must not be a sport organization where sport is defined as an activity involving physical exertion and skill.~~

1. Any individual on the SGA Finance Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting Student Government Association funding. Furthermore, individuals currently serving or who have previously served in organizations requesting funding must abstain from voting and discussion and debate on the consideration of that organization’s budget request.
2. All organizations that receive funding from SGA are required to follow all the rulings and policies made by the SGA Treasurer, Finance Committee, SGA Supreme Court, and NIU organization-related laws. Failure to follow any rulings or policies may result in an organization’s suspension or loss of SGA recognition.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to update and maintain the definition, structure and process of organizational tier funding in accordance with the most current Tier funding Guidelines set by the Treasurer, the Office of Student Involvement, the University, and the state.

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

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

**Agenda Item: C**    November 1st, 2024

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56011**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the committee’s procedures and conduct of business

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the current guidelines and procedures allow for ambiguity in the operation of committees that can conflict with precedent, desires, and objectives from the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, online meetings were useful in the pandemic, but now, they only allow Senators not to accomplish the work as required by the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, online meetings shall only be used in extreme circumstances with sufficient reasoning; and

WHEREAS, clarification and expansion of what the committee entail will ensure a professional and efficient Senate workload, and

WHEREAS, the Chair shall take responsibility for the meeting operations, like creating agendas, and cancellations of their respective committees; and

WHEREAS, Chairs shall report to Senate to provide Senate and the NIU community with a detailed explanation of committee event planning or general committee workload; 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**

**LEGLISLATIVE BRANCH**

**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 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. ~~Deputy Speaker.~~
5. 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.
6. Officers of committees shall be a chair, who is the presiding officer; the vice-chair, who shall preside over the committee in the chair’s absence; and a secretary, who shall keep records of the committee’s meetings. The Speaker shall appoint and remove the chair when deemed necessary. The vice chair and secretary shall be appointed by the chair with the consent of the committee, except for the Committee on Rules and Procedures. The Secretary Shall be the Director to each corresponding committee. This is found under each Director Section in Article III, Section 4. If there is a Director Vacancy, the Chair may appoint a new interim Secretary upon approval of the Committee to hold the role until the director ship is filled.
7. The chairperson of a committee shall be free to discuss any matter that concerns the committee but shall vote only in the event of a tie. Although the chairperson is free to debate any matter before the committee, the chairperson shall conduct all meetings with regard for parliamentary procedure and see that order is maintained in meetings, keeping in mind meetings are to be conducted in an informal manner. It is the duty of the chairperson to see the committee perform in accordance with its required functions. The chair shall determine the schedule for regular meetings of the committee with its approval. The chair may call special meetings of the committee.
8. The chairperson, with a majority consent by the committee, may appoint or remove previously appointed relevant administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members as seen fit.
9. The following members of the Student Government Association Shall attend meetings of any Senate committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: Speaker, Deputy Speaker, President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee.
10. Committee action can only be taken when a quorum is reached. Quorum is considered to be more than fifty percent (50%) of the committee’s current voting membership.
11. The Chair shall be responsible for the distribution of the agenda to OMA regulations. If an agenda is sent in violation of OMA regulations, the meeting shall be cancelled by the Speaker and the chair will be given a warning by the Office of the Speaker. The chair will be called to the Rules and Procedures Committee for a hearing after the 2nd infraction.
12. The Speaker must be sent a copy of the agenda and related committee materials. This shall include but is not limited to: posters, events, minutes, funding requests, surveys etc.
13. It will be the duty of the Chair to inform committee members of the cancellation due to any reason.
14. All committee meetings shall meet in person, unless the Chair secures permission from the Speaker with sufficient reasoning.
15. Committee Chair Meetings:
16. Chairs will be required to attend one meeting with the Deputy Speaker each month when the Senate is in session to monitor the progress of the committees as well as encourage cooperation among the varying chairs.
17. Types of Committees: There shall be two types of Senate committees, standing and ad hoc.
18. Ad hoc committees are temporary Senate committees that may be created by the Speaker with the approval of the Senate or by a majority vote of the Senate to serve a particular purpose. Ad hoc committees are all closed at the end of the session in which they were formed. The Speaker may appoint an ad-hoc committee to study any matter brought before them or the Senate that does not particularly relate to any standing committee. These committees shall consider only the matter referred to them and shall make a report to the Senate in relation to its study and subsequent findings in regard to the particular matter referred to it.
19. Standing committees are created in the bylaws and exist as permanent parts of the Senate.

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