**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday October 18th , 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 17th, 2024.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. Minutes from October 11th, 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. SB56004: A bill to update the procedures of recognizing student organizations
    2. SB56005: A bill to update expand some aspects of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate
    3. SB56006: A bill to update and clarify the Clerk’s responsibilities in the SGA Bylaws
13. New Business
    1. SB56007: A bill to update the responsibilities of the Board of Elections
    2. SR56010: A resolution to confirm a Director for Public Affairs
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**  **October 4th, 2024**

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56004**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the procedures of recognizing student organizations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Article IV §1.C of the Student Government Association Bylaws governs the procedures of new organizational approval,

WHEREAS, Student Government Association runs the risk of breaching anti-discrimination laws if rejecting a new organization not based on their merits; and

WHEREAS, this will provide a more efficient and streamlined way for new student organizations to be approved; and

WHERAS, having need an expedited business flow allows for the Senate to discuss, debate, and vote on other resolutions or bills that impact the students, staff, and community of Northern Illinois 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 IV**

**PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNTION**

The SGA shall outline an orderly process to assist organizations in obtaining recognition and prevent false or inappropriate groups from receiving recognition. The Vice President, together with the Organization Oversight Committee is charged with overseeing the recognition process. The recognition process consists of the following steps listed below.

1. Recognition Form: All groups seeking recognition must complete an Organization Registration Form on NIU’s Student Organization Platform that consists of the following:
   1. Organization Description: for use by all new organizations as well as returning organizations that wish to change their description.
   2. Organization Officers: for use at the beginning of each academic year any time an officer or faculty advisor changes during the academic year and during Mid-Year Transition.
   3. Faculty/Staff Advisor Agreement: for use when starting an organization and at any time the faculty advisor changes during the following school year.
   4. Governing Documents: including the organization’s constitution, bylaws, and national constitution (if applicable).
2. Organization Oversight Committee Review

The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee. The Organization Oversight Committee will meet with a representative from ~~the leader(s) of~~ the organization, review its constitution, and ~~make a recommendation to~~ approve or reject the potential organization ~~to the full Senate.~~ The Organization Oversight Committee will also determine the classification of the organization if approved. The Organizational Oversight Committee can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization, otherwise be granted full recognition by committee members. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify ~~each organization as well as~~ the treasurer of the SGA of the organization’s full recognition as well as the organization’s designated classification being granted after approval in the Organization Oversight Committee meeting. Committee members must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s recognition. ~~Recommendation of recognition of an organization can be made without a meeting with the leaders of the organization only following approval from both the organization and the Organization Oversight Committee.~~

1. ~~Senate Review~~

~~Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Senate will add the item to an upcoming Senate meeting for a vote. Each organization recommended for approval will be discussed and voted on as one business item. Senate can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the treasurer of the SGA of the organization’s their full recognition as well as the organization’s designated classification being granted after approval in the senate meeting. Senators must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s recognition.~~

1. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee ~~the Senate~~ for approval must wait at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of rejection to reapply for recognition. In cases where an organization has lost recognition due to violations of Student Government Association policy and/or Student Code of Conduct and/or has shown a pattern of such behavior, the university may advise on the waiting period for reapplication.

1. Recognition After Cease of Existence

If a recognized student organization either voluntarily or involuntarily disbands or ceases to exist on campus in an official capacity for longer than one academic year the organization must go through the recognition process again.

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

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

**Agenda Item:** B   **October 11th, 2024**

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56005**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update expand some aspects of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Article II §1.P of the Student Government Association Bylaws governs the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association shall have a member of Seante leadership on Organization Oversight to help expedite the approval process of organizations and general oversight of SGA recognized organizations; and

WHEREAS, this bill will expand upon SB 56004 and strengthened the provisions and efficiency of the bill; 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**

The Student Government Association Senate shall have the following duties and responsibilities as a body acting in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules:

P. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:

1. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
2. Be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve. ~~no earlier than the first scheduled meeting of the academic year.~~
3. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by coordinating overall activities of the chairs, and meet with individual chairs one on one once every month, and Senators once every two months.
4. Shall create and administer leadership quizzes to ensure all elected legislative positions are equipped with sufficient comprehension of Robert’s Rules of Order and other knowledge deemed by the Deputy Speaker important to hold the role.
5. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
6. Shall temporarily carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the Senate when directed by the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker.
7. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
8. Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.
9. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
10. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
11. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to preform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker
12. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
13. Shall be a paid position.
14. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
15. Shall serve as one of the main spokespersons for the SGA Senate alongside the Speaker for any press releases or statements made to the press, in regards to the SGA Senate
16. At the discretion of the Speaker.
17. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.

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

**­­­Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** C  **October 11th, 2024**

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56006**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update and clarify the Clerk’s responsibilities in the SGA Bylaws

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Senate is an important role in the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk’s responsibilities are not well defined in the SGA Bylaws and leaves room for interpretation issues; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk can be appointed without the Senate being in session; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk shall be primarily responsible for tasks assigned to them that focus on supporting the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, Clarification of the Bylaws helps to define the Clerk’s administrative power only to cover the Legislative Branch of SGA; and

WHEREAS, making the Clerk a conditional unpaid position if appointed out of the session prevents any person from receiving payment without the Senate’s approval; and

WHEREAS, ensures that the Clerk must go before the Senate and be confirmed in order to become a paid position; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of 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

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 Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:
   1. Shall be responsible for the public transparency, upkeep, and maintenance of all Senate Records, including all official correspondence and online live-stream recordings of all meetings, discussions, and votes on all legislation and candidates alike via shortened minutes\* that log votes cast and the recording and public transcripts to NIU’s Student Organization Platform as well as contacting the office of Web and Internal Communications to put them on the NIU Website.
      1. Shortened Minutes will still be uploaded in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, complete with attendance records, vote counts, and a brief summary of agenda items rather than a full transcription.
   2. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function ~~among the three branches~~ for the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
   3. ~~Shall report only to the Speaker.~~ Shall report to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker primarily and assist with any administrative responsibilities for the Legislative Branch or tasks given by Senate Leadership.
   4. Shall be the custodian of the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, working directly with the Vice President to ensure the governing documents are up to date and in good order.
   5. ~~Shall have other tasks assigned by the Speaker.~~ Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association’s Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform
   6. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
   7. If the Senate is not in session, the Speaker reserves the right to appoint the Clerk without a vote by the Senate. The Clerk shall be an unpaid position if appointed while Senate is not in session and will be updated to a paid position once Senate is in session and the Clerk is confirmed by the Senate.
   8. Shall see to upholding Robert’s Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
   9. Shall be a paid position.

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

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**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.***

**New Business First Reading**

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

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56015**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm a Director for Public Affairs

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student Government Association Cabinet is created by the President and exists for the purpose of assisting the president in the performance of their duties and responsibilities”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.B states that “All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, President Ja’Kobe Jones has appointed Ivory Rucker to serve as Director of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of 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 hereby approve of Ivory Rucker to serve as Director of Public Affairs.

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