**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday April 11th, 2025 – 4:00 PM**

**Holmes Student Center Sky Room**

**Public Streaming:** [**http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive**](https://niu-edu.zoom.us/j/82215987778?pwd=SlBtaEFiaG0xWmp0SWs4b0VZZVhpZz09)

*Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an* [*Intent to Speak*](https://cglink.me/2sZ/s54) *form, no later*

*than 11:59 pm, April 10th, 2025.*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Public Comments
4. Approval of Minutes
   1. *Minutes from April 4th, 2025*
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Speaker’s Report
7. Special Report
8. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
9. Committee Report(s)
10. Executive Branch Report(s)
    1. *Vice President’s Report*
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56029: A bill to update the definitions of senate vacancies in the bylaws
    2. SB56030: A bill to adjust some responsibilities for Deputy Speaker and Parliamentarian.
    3. SR56041: A resolution to confirm the Speaker of the Senate for the 57th Session
13. New Business
    1. SB56031: A bill to update the bylaws to add an article about the Judicial Branch
    2. SB56032: A bill to revise several responsibilities and structure of the Office of the Speaker.
    3. SB56033: A bill to remove temporary recognition and readjust recognition procedures.
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** April 4th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56029**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the definitions of senate vacancies in the bylaws

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association has clauses on filling vacancies within the Senate written in the bylaws; and

WHEREAS, each Senate seat is open to any student to apply for; and

WHEREAS, the language in the SGA bylaws about applicants running for SGA Senate is outdated and did not treat applicants as separate entities; and

WHEREAS, any SGA applicants must follow a process before being voted on to join the current session of SGA; and

WHEREAS, all SGA applicants will be brought up to Senate as separate pieces of legislation as well as be voted on separately; and

WHEREAS, SGA applicants should not be previously removed Senators who have not gone through the process of appeals with the Supreme Court; 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 5**

**Senate Vacancies**

1. Until all Senate seats have been filled as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A the Speaker shall accept applications for all vacancies on the Senate, ~~including vacancies for the next session that were not filled during the Spring Election.~~ Vacancies shall include all seats in which a Senator has resigned or been removed, or the seat was not originally filled during the initial election. As each vacancy is announced, the Speaker shall present the name of the first applicant who has registered with a completed application for consideration for an open seat.Applications will not be taken from graduating students when less than six (6) meetings remain in the session or from returning students when less than four (4) meetings remain in the session. No person who is on the applicant list may be skipped, except for the following:
2. The applicant asks to be skipped.
3. The applicant cannot attend the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
4. The applicant’s packet of information is not complete; such applicants will be moved to the bottom of the applicant list for later consideration.
5. The applicant has not attended at least one Senate meeting in its entirety.
6. The applicant has already been denied by the Senate in ~~any given~~ the current Senate session.
7. ~~The applicant has been removed from any position in Senate in a previous session and has not gone through the appeal process with the Supreme Court to be allowed again to run for Senate again.~~
8. The Senate will interview each applicant in order ofeach open seat. The Senate Speaker will introduce all applicants who meet the current Senate seat replacement criteria to the Senate.
9. The Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures are as follows:
10. Candidates for all Student Government Association offices shall be NIU students in good academic standing.
11. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign awaiver releasing their name and student identification number, allowing them to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
12. Re-entering students shall be eligible for candidacy for Student Government Association posts. Re-entering students are not eligible for any Student Government Association posts if they have been previously removed from their position in a prior session, unless the Supreme Court has met and voted to allow the student to reapply for the next session.
13. All candidates for Senate seat replacement positions must have attended at least one full Student Government Association Senate meeting prior to candidacy for Senate. (To ascertain attendance, potential candidates must check in with the Senate Clerk within five minutes of roll call being called and be present when their name is called at the final roll call at the adjournment of the meeting.)
14. Applicants must give their presentation to the Senate within four (4) Senate meetings of their attendance as a member of the public. This time limit may be waived at the Speaker’s discretion should any extenuating circumstances apply.
15. All candidates must obtain fifty (50) signatures from their constituents prior to submitting the application to the Speaker. The signatures must include the students’ full name, signature, Z-ID number, and a local phone number.
16. Candidates must have turned in an application for the Senate seat replacement position to the SGA Senate Speaker at least 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting in which applications are first presented. ~~If the candidate is applying for a seat for the next session of the Senate, the candidate must indicate that they are applying for the next session.~~
17. All candidates are required to provide proof of residence hall contracts, college affiliation, or resource center affiliation depending on the seat for which they are running. Regarding college seats, ‘proof’ shall be an official document or email received from the school; in the case of university-At-Large, an official document or email from the University. Proof for underrepresented seats shall be an email or letter from the resource center (If there is no resource center for an underrepresented group, then an official email or letter from a student organization representing the group will suffice.) University housing shall provide an official letter or email from the Housing Department/Hall Director/Graduate Hall Director or official housing contract.
18. At the meeting in which they are presented, the applicants will be given the opportunity to give a speech, no longer than five minutes, to address the Senate on their reasons for becoming a Senator.
19. The order in which applicants will be allowed to speak will be the same order in which the applications were turned into the Senate Speaker~~. However, e~~ Each applicant will be considered separately during the Senate meeting. For each application, the Speaker shall submit a separate resolution for each applicant which is to be the way for Senators to vote on the applicant.~~for each open seat. No applicant can be considered before an applicant who is qualified and turns in a completed application first.~~
20. After the candidate’s speech, the Senate floor will be open for the Senate to ask the candidate questions. Each Senator will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and receive answers. After all questions have been answered by the candidate or the five (5) minutes have completed, the candidate will step down and the Senate shall discuss and deliberate the candidate’s qualifications for being a Senator. The candidate is allowed to sit in during any discussion, however they are prohibited from partaking in discussion or providing further reasoning of their qualifications during discussion. If the candidate continuously provides interruptions during discussion after receiving a warning from the Speaker, the candidate shall be removed from the meeting until the Senate closes discussion. ~~Following all candidates’ speeches, the candidates will wait outside the Senate chambers as the Senate discusses the candidates.~~
21. After the Senate closes discussion, each candidate will be voted on, requiring a two-thirds vote of all present and voting senators to be approved. If an applicant fails to receive the necessary amount of votes, the applicant shall be denied from joining the Senate, but the applicant can still run for Senator in the Spring elections or apply again in the next session. ~~individually in the order in which they spoke. Any candidate who has completed the process outlined above but was not selected to join the Senate will be required to attend an entire additional meeting before being considered again.~~
22. All SGA officials involved in the Senate vacancy approval process must make all decisions in a viewpoint-neutral fashion. All candidates shall be judged objectively on their personal merit and character and not on the views of the group(s) or organization(s) with which they are affiliated.
23. ~~The applicants must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.~~
24. The newly approved Senators will take office immediately after the voting has taken place. ~~on all candidates at that meeting.~~

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

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

**Agenda Item: B**   April 4th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56030**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to adjust some responsibilities for Deputy Speaker and Parliamentarian.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker Nathan Gonzalez has occupied the position of Deputy Speaker of the Senate for nearly the entire 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker Gonzalez helped to lead the establishment of the position of the Parliamentarian that involved the consolidation of Legislative Director, Director of Community Service, and Historian; and

WHEREAS, after review of the past actions of the Parliamentarian Gurrero who has done an excellent job of establishing precedent in the role and of reviewing tasks carried out by Deputy Speaker Gonzalez, there are still rooms for improvement; and

WHEREAS, the changes made to Deputy Speaker allow for better clarity well they are able to be appointed and better controls their workflow to allow greater oversight on Senators, Chairpersons, and their respective committees; and

WHEREAS, such changes allows the Deputy Speaker have increased oversight in the actions of the Chairpersons to ensure that committees are operating and moves to identify problematic occurrences before they negatively impact the functions of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the changes made to Parliamentarian also provide better clarity to when they are able to be appointed and consolidates further some of their duties, provides more clarity, and emphasizes the duties of what would have been the Historian more; and

WHEREAS, the reemphasis of the Historians duties in the Parliamentarian allow for the history of Student Government Association to be preserved and to allow our records to be deposited in a timely and efficient manner in the Founders Memorial Library and does not provide for a misconception that the Parliamentarian is a “second” clerk; 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 resolve that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended to the following:

**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:

1. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
2. Legislate all matters of student interest.
3. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
4. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
5. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
6. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
7. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
8. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
9. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
10. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.
11. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.
12. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
13. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
14. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.
15. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.
16. 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.
17. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent.
18. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
19. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee.
20. The Office of the Speaker shall review all of each member's materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.
21. Facilitate and host a “Town Hall” meeting in which the student body is encouraged to directly ask SGA and specifically The President, Vice President, and Senate questions. The student body should also be encouraged to suggest actions SGA might want to consider moving forward.
22. These meetings should happen at least twice per semester and cannot occur within less than two (2) months from the previous meeting, with the exclusion from academic breaks during the school year
23. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy speaker are required to attend this event barring extreme extenuating circumstances.
24. The Senate shall announce and begin advertising the date, time, and location of these meetings at least one (1) week prior to the event.
25. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy Speaker should make a good faith effort to answer the questions honestly and should work to investigate any suggested actions from the student body.
26. The Senate shall have a number of paid officers, and each shall have duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Senate Operating Rules.
27. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
28. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
29. The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate
30. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for accurate records of the SGA.
31. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:
32. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
33. ~~Be~~ Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
34. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by helping to approve committee events, and coordinate overall activities upon request from Senators, Chairperson, direction of the Speaker, or by self-involvement.  ~~coordinating overall activities of the chairs and every month, and Senators once every two months.~~
35. Shall meet with Chairpersons at least once a month, and Senators twice a month, to help advise, monitor progress, or otherwise.
36. Shall collect reports from all Chairpersons on their activities prior to Senate and collect reports from Senators who serve in any non-SGA Standing Committees.
37. 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.
38. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
39. 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.
40. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
41. ~~Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.~~
42. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
43. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
44. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to perform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker.
45. ~~Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.~~
46. Shall be a paid position.
47. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
48. 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
49. At the discretion of the Speaker.
50. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.
51. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant-at-Arms
52. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
53. Shall preserve order and decorum as directed by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and shall, at the direction of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, have the authority to remove a disorderly individual or group from the Senate chambers.
54. Shall escort all nominees seeking appointment or confirmation to and from the Senate chambers before and after deliberations on their confirmation, respectively. ~~The Senate shall refer to the most up-to-date manual of Robert’s Rules and consider this procedure a closed session.~~
55. Shall be sensitive to individuals who require special seating for reasons of sight, hearing, etc.
56. Shall enjoy the full rights and privileges extended to all other Senators, including, but not limited to, the right to vote in any and all matters before the Senate.
57. Shall be knowledgeable regarding the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order and shall assist the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in their duties upon request.
58. Shall serve as a member on the Committee on Rules and Procedures.
59. This shall not be a paid position.
60. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
61. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
62. ~~May~~Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
63. Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislative branches by working alongside the Chief of Staff. ~~the Director of Campus and Environmental Affairs on legislative and policy matters.~~
64. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association.
65. 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.
66. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
67. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker.
68. ~~Shall maintain a record of all election related materials in both the Senate office and the archives, currently within the Founders Memorial Library.~~
69. Shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms, in ensuring that members follow Robert’s Ruled of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
70. ~~Shall assist alongside the Clerk of the Senate in the Archival of legislation, documents, recordings, and any other materials for the current session.~~
71. Shall work with the Election Commissioner or Clerk of the Senate in archiving legislation, documents, recordings, election materials, or any other materials in Office of Speaker and Founder Memorial Library.
72. Shall maintain a documented record of the history, activities, and business of Student Government Association and be a ~~re~~source of information for those who request it. ~~on past activities and business of the Student Government Association.~~
73. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
74. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures Committee.
75. Shall be a paid position.

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

**Old Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** EApril 4th, 2025

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56041**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm the Speaker of the Senate for the 57th Session

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, according to the Student Government Association Constitution, “The Speaker shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one-year term of office”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Corpuz’s term of office is set to expire after May 5th; and

WHEREAS, the Senate must elect a Speaker, and only those who receive a majority vote may be elected to this position; and

THEREFORE, the students at Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate elect that:

1. Nathan Gonzalez

shall be the Speaker for the Student Government Association 57th Session Senate, where they received a majority vote.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item: A**  **April 11th,2025**

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56031**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to update the bylaws to add an article about the Judicial Branch

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, there are no written responsibilities of the Supreme Court within the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, each branch of SGA has an article about the duties and responsibilities clearly stated in the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch has not been operable all year due to lack of direction and clear written responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Judicial Branch has been operating solely on whatever has been left to them from previous sessions; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Justice shall be added to codify any language about what the Chief Justice shall be able to do in their position; and

WHEREAS, the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Court shall be added to codify any language about what the Clerk of the Court shall be able to do in their position; and

WHEREAS, all documents of SGA shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court in order to ensure that they are acting constitutionally and are for the benefit of helping SGA to thrive; and

WHEREAS, adding timelines to the reviews of these documents shall keep the Supreme Court responsible during the year and keep them functional; and

WHEREAS, the process of the petitioning for a Supreme Court case shall be written down to prevent any future miscommunications of SGA and to allow the Supreme Court to hear cases more effectively; and

WHEREAS, there is language now written down to ensure that the Supreme Court shall be effectively operational in the case that the Chief Justice is no longer in their position; and

WHEREAS, there is now language to allow other members of SGA to be involved in the selection of a Chief Justice in the case that the rest of the justices are not effectively able to meet to select a new Chief Justice; and

WHEREAS, procedures are written down in events that the Supreme Court is unable to meet and provide deadlines to select a new Chief Justice to operate more effectively; 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**

**Judicial Branch**

**Section 1**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Judicial Branch**

1. The Judicial Branch of SGA shall be made up entirely of the Supreme Court and shall be used interchangeably with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall be made up of at most five (5) SGA Supreme Court Justices that are appointed by the President and that are confirmed by the Senate via majority vote.
   1. The Supreme Court shall be comprised of a Chief Justice, a Clerk of the Court, and at most three (3) Justices other than the Chief Justice and the Clerk of the Court that will serve as Associate Justices.
   2. The Supreme Court shall have a minimum of three (3) justices, which includes the Chief Justice to be able to convene as the Supreme Court. If the number of justices falls below three (3), the Supreme Court shall be unable to convene and must wait for the President to appoint a new justice and for the Senate to confirm via majority vote.
   3. A Supreme Court justice shall serve for the entire time that they remain a full-time student in good standing at NIU.
   4. A Justice must be reappointed to their position if they vacate their position for any reason besides removal.
   5. Any Justice that has been removed from their position as justice is ineligible to reapply to become a member of SGA.
   6. All justices must complete Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training for each year that they serve on the Supreme Court no later than ninety (90) days after their appointment and no later than ninety (90) days after the first day of each Fall Semester that they serve on. Proof of completion shall be submitted to the same place that any other member of SGA will submit their training to. Failure to complete OMA Training within the designated timeline will result in the immediate removal from SGA by the Senate.
2. The Justices shall convene a meeting to appoint and elect a Chief Justice. The Chief Justice shall:
   1. Be a currently appointed Justice of the Supreme Court that was appointed and confirmed by Senate.
   2. Have been elected and appointed via majority vote by the Supreme Court. If the Chief Justice vacates their position as Chief Justice, whether through resignation or removal, the Supreme Court shall convene within fourteen (14) days of the vacancy to select a new Chief Justice.
   3. Not be any Supreme Court Justice that was appointed and confirmed in the current session. The only exception to this rule is if all justices were elected within the session.
   4. Oversee and manage all Supreme Court meetings and hearings, in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA).
   5. Report to Senate on all the Supreme Court’s meetings and hearings at the next possible Senate meeting within the session.
   6. Be in good standing with the university.
   7. Run all Supreme Court meetings and shall abstain from all votes except for the following situations:
      1. The total number of Justices is odd, and a tie has formed while voting.
      2. The total number of Justices is even, and a tie has formed from the other Justices due to a Justice having to abstain from the vote.
      3. The Supreme Court must all abstain as they are directly connected to the issue that is being voted on.
3. The Chief Justice must appoint and elect a Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the Court shall:
   1. Be a currently appointed and confirmed Justice of the Supreme Court
   2. Keep accurate and detailed records of any meetings that the Supreme Court has during the session.
   3. Work alongside the Parliamentarian to collect accurate records, details of any hearings, and any other documented materials that the Supreme Court has made during the session. They will also work together on reviewing present and past court decisions and opinions as precedent to the Justices for consideration when undertaking a hearing.
   4. Shall serve as the Clerk of the Court until one of the following conditions are met:
      1. They are no longer a full-time student of NIU in good standing with the university.
      2. Resignation from their position
      3. Removal from their position
      4. The Chief Justice vacates their position, whether by resignation or removal
4. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for reviewing the SGA Constitution and Bylaws and providing any revisions or changes made to either document to be voted on by the Senate. The Supreme Court shall review the SGA Constitution and Bylaws annually.
   1. The Supreme Court shall submit all recommended changes to the Senate, in which legislation shall be drafted to be voted upon by the Senate. The Supreme Court shall send the Chief Justice or a justice if the Chief Justice is unable to attend to give a report on the exact changes that they wish to be made to the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
   2. If the legislation fails to pass, the Supreme Court can revise their recommendations which will be sent back to the Senate to be voted upon again as a new piece of legislation. There can be no more than three (3) attempts at revisions made to the original recommendation.
   3. If there are no changes in the SGA Constitution or Bylaws to recommend to the Senate, the Chief Justice shall still report to the Senate at least once a semester to provide any updates of the Supreme Court’s actions or plans for the next semester.
5. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for creating, maintaining, and amending the Code of Procedures of SGA. The Code of Procedures shall be reviewed at least every other year to ensure the Code of Procedures is up to date on all SGA and university policies.
   1. The Code of Procedures shall serve as the main governing document of the Supreme Court. It shall be a document that is solely written and amended by the Supreme Court. The Code of Procedures shall not supersede the SGA Constitution and Bylaws as well as any federal, state, local, or university policies and rules.
   2. The Code of Procedure must be ratified by the Senate and Supreme Court to go into effect.
   3. A copy of the Code of Procedures shall be given to both the President and Speaker upon assuming their respective offices. A copy of the Code of Procedures shall also be given to each Justice once appointed to the Supreme Court and confirmed by the Senate.
   4. Any amendments, besides grammatical or typographical errors, to the Code of Procedures shall be reported to the Senate at the next possible Senate meeting within the session. The updated copy of the Code of Procedures shall be submitted to both the Office of the Speaker and the President’s office to maintain an accurate record of any changes.
   5. If there are no changes to the Court of Procedure, the copy most recently approved by the Senate and Supreme Court that is on file with either the President or Office of the Speaker, shall be still in effect.
6. The Supreme Court shall be responsible for receiving and reviewing any petitions for all potential Supreme Court cases that are filed with the SGA offices.
   1. The Supreme Court shall meet within two (2) weeks of receiving notice of a petition to decide whether to accept or reject hearing out the Supreme Court petition. The Supreme Court shall notify the petitioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the initial meeting of the Supreme Court’s decision.
   2. The Supreme Court shall decide whether to accept the petition, via vote. This vote must be made within a Supreme Court Meeting and only requires a majority to accept or deny the petition. If the Supreme Court is made up of an even number of justices and a tie has formed from the other Justices due to a Justice having to abstain from the vote, the Chief Justice shall break the tie.
   3. If the Supreme Court chooses to accept the petition, it shall be the duty of the Chief Justice to inform the respondent(s) and the petitioner(s) of the date and time of the Supreme Court case.
   4. It shall be the duty of each justice to inform the rest of the Supreme Court of their bias in any hearing if they are directly correlated to any Supreme Court Case. It is also the duty of each individual justice to abstain from voting, or recuse themselves, on any matter that directly correlates to an organization that they are a part of.
7. The Supreme Court shall have the responsibility to hear any case request regarding an appeal of an original decision. The Supreme Court shall have the ability to overturn any decision in SGA, if the initial decision is deemed to have been unconstitutionally decided.
   1. For the Supreme Court to overturn a decision in SGA, the Supreme Court shall receive a petition for an appeal and must decide on hearing the case. If the case is accepted, the Supreme Court shall treat the appeal case as any other Supreme Court case, which still needs a majority vote to pass or fail.
   2. The Supreme Court can overturn any decision about the permanent removal of a Senator for SGA. The removed Senator must first appeal to the Supreme Court that their removal was unjustly decided. If the Supreme Court agrees with the removed senator, the senator shall not be reinstated for the current session but shall be allowed to rejoin SGA in the following session, pending approval and confirmation by the Senate.
8. In the case that a Chief Justice vacates their current position, the Supreme Court shall convene to select a new Chief Justice from the remaining Justices via majority vote.
   1. The responsibility of the Chief Justice is passed to the Clerk of the Court until the Court can convene to select and vote in a new Chief Justice. The Clerk of the Court automatically takes the role of Acting Chief Justice in the case that the Chief Justice seat is vacant but shall not automatically become the next Chief Justice unless they are voted upon by the rest of the Supreme Court. If the Clerk of the Court is a vacant position, the longest sitting justice shall take up the responsibilities until a new Chief Justice is selected.
   2. If the Supreme Court is unable to convene within the fourteen (14) days to select a new Chief Justice, the President shall make an appointment of a Chief Justice from within the remaining Supreme Court. The President’s Chief Justice appointment must be confirmed by the Senate with a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
   3. If the vote for the initial appointment fails, the President must appoint a different Justice which must be confirmed by the Senate as well with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. In the case that the Senate has chosen not to confirm any of the appointments for Chief Justice that the President has made so far and that the next appointment is the last, currently sitting Justice to receive the appointment, the Senate only needs a majority vote to confirm the Justice as the next Chief Justice. If even this vote fails, the Senate must elect a currently sitting Justice as the new Chief Justice via popular vote of the Senate.
   4. If the President does not make an initial appointment within seven (7) days of receiving the responsibility to choose the Chief Justice, the responsibility shall be passed to the Speaker in which legislation shall be written to select a new Chief Justice and the Senate shall nominate, elect, and vote a currently sitting Justice as the new Chief Justice with a two-thirds (2/3) vote. If this vote fails, the process will continue following the same process as aboe until a new Chief Justice if confirmed.

**ARTICLE V**

**CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS**

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** BApril 11th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56032**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to revise several responsibilities and structure of the Office of the Speaker.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker serves as a member of the SGA Finance Committee along with the Speaker and several senators throughout the 56th Session;

WHEREAS, the Deputy Speaker serves as Chairperson of the Organizational Oversight Committee throughout the 56th Session ensuring student organizations pass required constitutional checks that ensures they are eligible for Student Government Association funding;

WHEREAS, over the course of discussions with the SGA Treasurer and processing of AY2025-2026 Annual Funding request, highlighted a need for SGA leadership to have a formal centralized system that tracks the financial subcategories, or tiers, of student organizations on campus; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a centralized repository system under the joint jurisdiction of Student Involvement and Student Government Association will allow for greater efficiency in workflows between the SGA Vice President, SGA Treasurer, SGA Deputy Treasurer, SGA Director of Student Organizations, and Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, the joint repository will allow for greater oversight in ensuring student organizations meet criteria set by SGA and to ensure eligible organizations for funding are informed of their standing and what their tier is; and

WHEREAS, it will allow for student organizations to verify by checking with either individuals mentioned above to determine their tier status for proper funding amounts and ensure smoother request for either annual or supplemental funding, including Executive allocations; 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”;

WHEREAS, Article IV 1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that the Senate has the power, “To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended 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:

1. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
2. Legislate all matters of student interest.
3. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
4. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
5. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
6. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
7. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
8. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
9. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
10. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.
11. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.
12. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
13. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
14. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.
15. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.
16. 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.
17. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent.
18. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
19. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee.
20. The Office of the Speaker shall review all of each member's materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.
21. Facilitate and host a “Town Hall” meeting in which the student body is encouraged to directly ask SGA and specifically The President, Vice President, and Senate questions. The student body should also be encouraged to suggest actions SGA might want to consider moving forward.
22. These meetings should happen at least twice per semester and cannot occur within less than two (2) months from the previous meeting, with the exclusion from academic breaks during the school year
23. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy speaker are required to attend this event barring extreme extenuating circumstances.
24. The Senate shall announce and begin advertising the date, time, and location of these meetings at least one (1) week prior to the event.
25. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy Speaker should make a good faith effort to answer the questions honestly and should work to investigate any suggested actions from the student body.
26. The Senate shall have a number of paid officers, and each shall have duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Senate Operating Rules.
27. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
28. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
29. The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate
30. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for accurate records of the SGA.
31. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:
32. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
33. Be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
34. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by coordinating overall activities of the chairs ande every month, and Senators once every two months.
35. 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.
36. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
37. 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.
38. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
39. Maintain chair office hour records to ensure proper conduct of Senate committee chairs.
40. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
41. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
42. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to perform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker.
43. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
44. Shall be a paid position.
45. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
46. 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
47. At the discretion of the Speaker.
48. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.
49. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant-at-Arms
50. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
51. Shall preserve order and decorum as directed by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and shall, at the direction of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, have the authority to remove a disorderly individual or group from the Senate chambers.
52. Shall escort all nominees seeking appointment or confirmation to and from the Senate chambers before and after deliberations on their confirmation, respectively. The Senate shall refer to the most up-to-date manual of Robert’s Rules and consider this procedure a closed session.
53. Shall be sensitive to individuals who require special seating for reasons of sight, hearing, etc.
54. Shall enjoy the full rights and privileges extended to all other Senators, including, but not limited to, the right to vote in any and all matters before the Senate.
55. Shall be knowledgeable regarding the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order and shall assist the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in their duties upon request.
56. Shall serve as a member on the Committee on Rules and Procedures.
57. This shall not be a paid position.
58. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
59. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
60. 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.
61. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association.
62. 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.
63. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
64. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker.
65. Shall maintain a record of all election related materials in both the Senate office and the archives, currently within the Founders Memorial Library.
66. Shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms, in ensuring that members follow Robert’s Ruled of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
67. Shall assist alongside the Clerk of the Senate in the Archival of legislation, documents, recordings, and any other materials for the current session.
68. Shall be a resource of information on past activities and business of the Student Government Association.
69. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures Committee.
70. Shall be a paid position.
71. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function for the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
75. 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.
76. 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.
77. Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association’s Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform.
78. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
79. 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.
80. Shall see to upholding Robert’s Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
81. Shall be a paid position.
82. The Office of the Speaker is the office that contains the Speaker of the Senate and their appointed positions who work and execute the duties required by their positions.
83. All positions that the Speaker of the Senate may appoint such as: Deputy Speaker, Clerk of the Senate, Parliamentarian, or the Sergeant-at-Arms fall under the Office.
84. The Speaker shall oversee the activities of the officers in the Office.
85. The Deputy Speaker shall oversee the Clerk of the Senate, Parliamentarian and Sergeant-At-Arms. The Parliamentarian shall reside at the bottom.
86. Unless specified otherwise, references to the Office of the Speaker shall assume to include the Speaker of the Senate and any other appointed officers.

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

**New Business First Reading**

**Agenda Item:** C April 11th, 2025

**Author:** DeputySpeaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** DeputySpeakerGonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56033**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A bill to remove temporary recognition and readjust recognition procedures.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, prior to SR560, a student organization received temporary recognition because the process included steps such as needing to be reviewed and approved before Organizational Oversight Committee and then being confirmed by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, temporary recognition allowed student organizations to be able to reserve rooms through Huskie Hub, but still not be able to request any SGA funding, until the slow bureaucratic process allowed them to be presented and approved in Senate which could take weeks, depending on various elements involved; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of SB56004, the process has been greatly improved as the Organizational Oversight Committee has been empowered to provide full SGA recognition with the only step between a student organization submitting their application and OO approval is review by the Vice President and Director of Organizations to ensure that they have everything that is required by the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, temporary recognition in post-SB56004 does little to help an organization if they will be readily approved and is one further bureaucratic process that can now be retired; and

WHEREAS, removal of temporary recognition helps to incentivize stalled student organizations, regardless of circumstances, to advance more readily through the process; and

WHEREAS, this decrease in the overall time not only allows the Vice President, Director, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee to begin to focus on other aspects of SGA, but it also increases the amount of time that the student organizations could use to establish their presence on campus; and

WHEREAS, this bill cleans up residual effects or language left over, not fixed, or any other grammatical error from the passage of SB56004 to better conform with new procedures set forth and intended after the legislation was passed; 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 resolve that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended to the following:

**ARTICLE II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4**

**Senate Standing Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

Standing committees shall have a total of up to nine (9) members, including the chair and the vice-chair. The SGA Senate shall have the following standing committees:

1. Committee on Campus Life and Greek Affairs
   1. The Committee on Campus Life and Greek Affairs shall be concerned with developing recommendations on making this institution a more desirable one to attend. This committee shall be responsible for the advancement of the University in all areas except those that are the duty of another standing committee, including university services and policies.
   2. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of commuter students and any other matter that relates to commuter students.
   3. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of residents of this campus and any other matter that relates to residents’ needs.
   4. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of Greek students and the residential life on Greek Row.
   5. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinion of the committee members: Director of Student Life, Director of Athletics and Recreation, and Director of Greek Affairs.
   6. The Committee shall be concerned with the academic life of students and improvement of the academic policies that affect students.
   7. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:
      1. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and Residential Services)
      2. ResTech
      3. Campus Child Care
      4. Recreation and Wellness
      5. Career Services
      6. Counseling and Consultation Services
      7. Couple and Family Therapy Clinic
      8. Health Services
      9. Office of the Ombudsperson
      10. Students’ Legal Assistance
      11. Campus Dining
      12. Campus Activities Board
      13. University Writing Center
      14. Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)
      15. Grounds
      16. University Libraries
      17. Tutoring
      18. Student Involvement and Leadership Development
      19. Student Employment
      20. Financial Aid Office
      21. Office of the Bursar
      22. Study Abroad Office
      23. Huskie Safe Line Service
   8. The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the following at least once a semester:
      1. All Greek governing councils
      2. The office of Student Involvement
      3. Resident hall directors
      4. The office of Academic Affairs
   9. The Committee shall give a report to the Senate at least once a semester on the discussions that they have had with the groups outlined in Part I, Article II, Section A.7
2. Committee on Rules and Procedures
   1. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall be concerned with the proper management of the Student Government Association, the University, and/or their subdivisions. The Committee shall review and recommend revision of any procedures, guidelines, rules, or legislation of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Committee.
   2. The Committee shall also be concerned with legislation establishing penalties for violation of university regulations, including judicial penalties.
   3. The Committee shall be concerned with enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules. Those matters relating to student government management, including review of all executive appointments subject to Senate approval, are the responsibility of this Committee. The Committee shall also view all candidates presented to the Senate to fill Senate and Supreme Court vacancies based on past, present, and future contributions to the Student Government Association and the student body as well as review all resolutions to be proposed to the Senate for the proper form according to the Senate’s Operating Rules.
   4. The Committee shall be concerned with the services provided to the student body by the Student Government Association and shall see that these services are maintained at their highest levels of excellence. It will also provide legislative oversight for all Student Government Association services.
   5. The Committee shall ensure efficient communication is maintained among all bodies of the Student Government Association.
   6. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: All SGA Directors.
3. Committee on Public Affairs
   1. The Committee of Public Affairs shall be concerned with the proper advertisement and publicizing the Student Government Association to students.
   2. The Committee shall collaborate with other SGA committees to advertise upcoming and future SGA-sponsored events.
   3. The Committee shall plan and implement community service projects for the Student Government Association to participate in.
   4. The Committee shall plan and execute at least one informational campaign each year that is geared toward recruiting Senators-at-large to fill vacant seats when necessary. Campaign(s) must be submitted to the Speaker for final review prior to implementation and must not interfere with spring elections.
   5. The Committee of Public Affairs shall assist the Director of Public Affairs, when applicable, in publicizing the Student Government Association and its initiatives.
   6. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Public Affairs
   7. The Committee shall design a proposal for an annual information campaign to educate the student body about the services and programs offered or supported by the Student Government Association. The information will be sent to the President of the SGA for review, modification, and consent prior to implementation by the Director of Public Affairs
4. Committee on Campus Life Environmental Affairs
5. The Committee shall be concerned with the improvement of environmental quality on campus as well as contributions to environmental initiatives put forth by the University or the Student Government Association.
6. The Committee shall assist the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs in their initiatives and objectives, especially in regard to communication with organizations.
7. The Committee, under the direction of either the Director or Chair of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs must implement a environmental literacy program that all committee members must go through. They shall attend the program once a semester for how long they serve on the committee.
8. The Committee shall plan and implement a program aimed at educating students about environmental issues with assistance from the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs. This program shall consist of at least one event each semester and must be educational in nature. One event must fall under the purview of Earth Week.
9. The Committee shall attempt to bring environmental and sustainability issues to the attention of campus administrators and encourage their participation in student-initiated changes.
10. The Committee shall serve as representatives for the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs should they not be able to attend committee meetings as listed in the duties.
11. The Committee shall cooperate with existing environmental student organizations, or community partners, to assist and further agendas regarding sustainability.
12. The committee shall establish an annual Campus Sustainability Week either before, or on Earth Week. They shall work with the Director or Chairperson to plan, implement, and execute all activities.
13. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs.
14. Committee on Organization Oversight
    1. The Committee on Organization Oversight shall be concerned with the oversight of student organization functions, including but not limited to: recognition, constitution and bylaw amendments, serving on organization committees, etc. The Organization Oversight Committee will report to the senate on matters regarding student organization procedures, concerns, approvals, etc. One (1) university staff member from the Division of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide further guidance to the committee when needed.
    2. The committee shall also be concerned with having at least one (1) member sit on each the University On-Campus Events Committee, Student Organization Advisory Board, and Leadership Awards Planning Team to stay updated on current student organization operations within the university.
    3. The committee shall also be concerned with being the first step in student organization conflict resolution prior to university staff that handles organizational development followed by the Student Government Association Supreme Court.
    4. The committee shall also be concerned with providing primary approval of new/returning student organizations and referring approved organizations to the Student Government Association Senate.
    5. The committee shall also be concerned with reviewing any constitution and bylaws updates for student organizations and provide approval to said updates for student organizations.
    6. The committee shall also be concerned with making student organization policy recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
    7. The committee shall also be concerned with working with the Vice President and the Director of Organizational Development to successfully complete the Annual Renewal Process.
    8. Members of the Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting full ~~temporary~~ recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting full ~~temporary~~ recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization’s full ~~temporary~~ recognition.
    9. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Organizational Development.

**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. Office of the President Review
   1. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall collect all necessary recognition forms, documents, and other materials that pertain to the new student organization.
   2. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall take a review of all the materials to ensure that everything required by Student Government Association is met. Upon satisfaction to either party, the Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee
3. 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 the leader(s) of the organization, review its constitution, and make a recommendation to approve or reject the organization for full SGA Senate approval. ~~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 Notification ~~Review~~

Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee must state the organization for which was approved during the committee. The Senate shall be empowered to compel the Chairperson to notify of any organization approvals if after two (2) weeks they have failed to do so at a Senate meeting. The Chairperson’s failure to notify the Senate does not impact the full recognition of the new student organization in any way. ~~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 Organizational 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.***