**Student Government Association Senate**

**Northern Illinois University**

**Friday October 25th , 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 24th, 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. Vice President Report
11. Cabinet Report(s)
12. Old Business
    1. SB56007: A bill to update the responsibilities of the Board of Elections
13. New Business
    1. SB56008: A bill to update the bylaws to allow senators to speak to the press with certain restrictions
    2. SB56009:A bill to update the bylaws to change the committee
    3. SR56011: A resolution to recognize student organizations.
14. Good of the Order
15. Announcements
16. Adjournment

*Please be advised that public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person, and that any one*

*topic may not be discussed for more than 15 minutes.*

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami,

Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations.

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

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

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

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56007**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

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

**Legislation:**

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senate is providing Senators with a stipend; and

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

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

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

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

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

**ARTICLE II**

**Section 2**

**Election Commissioner**

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

**Section 3**

**Board of Elections**

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

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

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

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56008**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

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

**Legislation:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Senators shall direct anyone asking for the overall opinion of the Senate to speak with the Speaker of the Senate; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the

SGA bylaws be changed to the following:

**Article II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
2. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
   1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
      1. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
      2. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
      3. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
   2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being meet, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
      1. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
   3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker’s decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.
   4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
   5. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator’s excusal form.
3. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
4. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) training during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
   1. If a senator has already attended CODE training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
   2. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.
   3. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
   4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
   5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses per semester with the appropriate university office.
5. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by the Senate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
6. Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator’s removal from office.
7. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.
8. Senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of Senate or SGA to any members of the public or press. Senators are required to point any questions, comments, or concerns to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as they are the main representatives of Senate. Should any Senator violate this policy, the Speaker shall enact disciplinary action up to and including the Senator’s removal from office.
   1. Senators are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules & Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks’ notice of the disciplinary action.

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

**­­­New Business First Reading**

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

**Author:** Speaker Corpuz

**Sponsor:** Speaker Corpuz

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 56009**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

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

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Senators are able to join a University Committee; and

WHEREAS, confusion might arise from Senators joining the University Committee without the expressed consent of SGA leadership; and

WHEREAS, Senators should go through the Office of the Speaker and more importantly the Speaker themselves to seek appointment; and

WHEREAS, Senators should provide written proof of attendance in a report from the University Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senators must be a part of committees and should take responsibility for joining a committee; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the

SGA bylaws be changed to the following:

**Article II**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 2**

**Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being at least a standing Senate or executive committee.
   1. It shall be the responsibility of a Senator to ensure that they are on at least two (2) committees. If a senator goes longer than a month without being on two (2) committees, it will be the responsibility of the Rules & Procedures Committee to decide the most appropriate course of disciplinary action up to and including the Senator’s removal from office.
   2. Senators can be a part of University Committees through appointment.
      1. For all University Committees, Senators must apply for appointment via the Speaker. A senator must have the expressed consent from the Speaker and President before being appointed to the University Committee.
      2. University Committees must meet on at least a monthly basis for the Senator to receive credit for their committee requirement.
2. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
   1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
      1. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
      2. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
      3. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
   2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being meet, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
      1. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
      2. For all University Committees, Senators must provide a written report within two (2) business days to the Office of the Speaker as proof of attendance. This written report must include what was discussed during the meetings. If the topics are pertinent for other Senator’s knowledge, the Senator may also be required to give the report during the Committee Reports in a Senate meeting.
      3. Failure to provide a written report within the allocated time shall result in a penalty of a one-half (1/2) absence towards their semester Senate Attendance record

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

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

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

**Author:** Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Deputy Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 56011**

**Fifty–Sixth Session**

**Summary:** A resolution to recognize student organizations.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Organizational Oversight Committee has granted the below organizations temporary recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has the responsibility to approve of official recognition for student organizations

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby grant official Student Government Association recognition to;

1. Delta Phi Delta Dance Fraternity Inc. Theta Chapter
2. Economic Student Association
3. Gamma Theta Upsilon: Iota Gamma Chapter

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