

Student Government Association Senate

**Northern Illinois University
Friday, September 18th, 2026 – 1:30 PM
Holmes Student Center – Sky Room**

Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an [Intent to Speak](#) form, no later than 11:59 pm, September 17th, 2026.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Senate Minutes 09.04.2026
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
- VII. NIU Police Report
- VIII. Senate Review
 - A. Senate Cancellation 09.11.2026
- IX. Speaker's Report
- X. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- XI. Committee Report(s)
- XII. Executive Branch Report(s)
- XIII. Cabinet Report(s)
- XIV. Old Business
 - A. SB58001: A bill to revise Student Organizational policies
 - B. SB58002: A bill to include and mandate an Anti-Hazing Policy for student organizations
 - C. SB58003: A bill to revise aspects of the Finance Policy
 - D. SB58004: A bill to make substantial changes in the Office of the Speaker
 - E. SB58005: A bill to eliminate and reorganize the SGA Supreme Court
- XV. New Business
 - A. SB58006: A bill to reform Board of Elections Appeal Process
 - B. SR58005: A resolution to amend the Senate Operating Manual
- XVI. Good of the Order
- XVII. Announcements
- XVIII. 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

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Frida, September 4th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58001

Fifty– Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to revise Student Organization policies

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 57th Session of the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate passed several pieces of legislation that made reforms to the Student Organization policy ranging from mediation provisions for Organization Oversight Committee to highlight academic interests; and

WHEREAS, Speaker of the Seante Nathan Gonzalez understanding of reforms that SGA did in the past seems to indicate that the classification system is incomplete and was supposed to go hand in hand with the Tier system used by the SGA Finance Committee to create continuity and lessen confusion; and

WHEREAS, no connection was ever established between classification of student organizations and the Tier system and the tier system has been confusing since it's inception until time has allowed it stay and reforms by the 56th and 57th Session further clarified; and

WHEREAS, even the reforms in the 57th Session still left aspects that need to be clarified such as the grace semester clause and other items that need to be further refined; and

WHEREAS, this bill will clarify those elements left unclear by the 57th Session and lay the foundation for a robust classification system that will allow a future bill to prepare to link the classification system with the tier system helping to ensure that not only is SGA's regulations uniformed but are applied evenly through the entire student organization policy; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association understands that the life and pulse of student life on campus is the student organizations that SGA has recognized in the past and present; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

The Student Government Association (SGA) is charged with recognizing, assisting, and regulating all student organizations at NIU that are not a project of a particular University department. Student organizations recognized by the SGA are to be called Recognized Student Organizations (RSO's). This policy explains all the responsibilities and benefits of student organizations and the responsibilities of the Student Government Association. The Vice President shall have primary responsibility but in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee for the administration of this policy. The Vice President has primary responsibility for administration of

this policy.

ARTICLE II IV

PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

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.

- A. Recognition specifically for fraternity & sorority student organizations must first contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) of Northern Illinois University to begin and complete the process for approval at Northern Illinois University.
 - 1. Upon the completion of FSL expansion procedures, reviews, and approval, a memo will be sent to the SGA Vice President and/or the Director of Organization Development and Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee of a fraternity & sorority student organization recognized by FSL. Upon receiving the memo, SGA will automatically grant recognition without any further action. The approval of an organization by FSL can be shared to the Senate by the Vice President, Director of Organization Development, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee in their report.
 - 2. FSL will ensure compliance of SGA required mandates for student organizations prior to the memo being sent.
- B. 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).

C. Student Involvement Review

- 1. A staff member from Student Involvement will ensure that governing documents and mission does not violate university policies, faculty advisor is legitimate, and officers meet standards set by this policy.

D. ~~Office of the President~~ Vice President or Director 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.

E. Organization Oversight Committee Review

- 1. 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 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.

2. If the organization has no members able to attend the assigned meeting and does not contact the SGA in advance. The Organization Oversight Committee will hold the organization for three (3) months from the day it was introduced to the committee before the SGA Organization Oversight Committee may proceed to reject the organization for full approval. They shall resubmit all application materials as outlined in these Bylaws to return to the SGA Organization Oversight Committee for approval without time penalty.

F. Organization Oversight Notification

1. If the organization has no members able to attend the assigned meeting and does not contact the SGA in advance. The Organization Oversight Committee will hold the organization for three (3) months from the day it was introduced to the committee before the SGA Organization Oversight Committee may proceed to reject the organization for full approval. They shall resubmit all application materials as outlined in these Bylaws to return to the SGA Organization Oversight Committee for approval without time penalty.

G. Senate Notification

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 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.

H. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee 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.

I. 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.

ARTICLE II REQUIREMENTS OF RECOGNITION

Section 1

Overview of Requirements

Student organizations seeking to obtain recognition from the Student Government Association must ensure that these requirements are met when submitting materials for review. Failure to do so may result in recognition being delayed until requirements are met or rejected depending on the circumstances as determined solely by the Organization Oversight Committee. All requirements listed in this article, unless specified, need to be met prior to recognition and to continue to remain recognized as a student organization with checks occurring during re-registration or periodic review by the Office of the Speaker or Organization Oversight Committee.

Section 2

Constitution and Democratic Procedures

- A. All organizations must have their constitution, mission statement, and bylaws on file with the Student Government Association/ NIU's Student Organization Platform, which must include the organization's name, purpose(s), requirements for membership, method of officer selection and impeachment proceedings, and the non-discrimination clause. All documents must be up to date. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and/or Director of Organizational Development to assist recognized student organizations and those organizations seeking recognition with creating and updating constitutions, bylaws, and other governing documents required for recognition.
- B. A student organization's constitution must have the organization's name, purpose(s), requirements for membership, officers and their duties, impeachment and vacancy clauses, and non-discrimination clause.
- C. Major decisions and officer selection must be made in a democratic way by the membership of Executive Board by discretion of individual organization, and approval of the Organization Oversight Committee.
- ~~D. The organization's constitution must guarantee that major decisions are made in a democratic way by the membership or Executive Board at the discretion of the individual organization.~~

Section 2

Membership and Required Positions

- A. Every student organization must have at least one (1) advisor, that is a NIU staff or faculty member. Graduate assistants do not qualify.
- B. Student organizations must have the position of president, vice president, and treasurer filled who are NIU students to receive initial recognition. They must also have three (3) additional interested members but that does not forgo the required positions denoted above. Only one (1) person may occupy the required position. No individual can overlap as president or vice president, or any other combination to receive initial recognition.
- C. Student organizations that cannot maintain at least three (3) members, excluding the three required officer positions, registered in NIU's Student Organization Platform must work with staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.
- ~~D. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President.~~
- E. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.
- F. Every organization shall include the following non-discrimination statement in their constitution:
 - a. As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX. However, registered student organizations may limit their membership and leadership to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's sincerely held beliefs or statement of principles, comply with the organization's standards of conduct, and further the organization's mission or purpose as defined by the organization.
- G. The only exceptions to Part F immediately above are as follows:
 - a. Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
 - b. Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
 - c. Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those selected from the constituent groups.
 - d. A student organization may outline in their constitution a desire to be a restrictive organization, where full membership and full participation is selected by a clearly outlined democratic process.

A restrictive organization shall be unable to request any funding from the Student Government Association.

- e. Student organizations that are part of a national organization and are restricted from establishing a local constitution at NIU can be exempt, pending review by the Organizational Oversight Committee. The student organization shall provide physical evidence and the national organization's constitution before the organization can receive temporary recognition as a student organization.
- H. Any organization that offers certain privileges or opportunities to a limited membership must clearly outline in their constitution how the organization's regular membership is provided with ample opportunity for involvement.

Section 3

Maintaining Recognized Status

- A. All recognized student organizations must complete the Annual Renewal process each fall and the Transition process is half-way through the year to maintain recognition. This process is to be facilitated by Student Organization staff.
- B. All recognized student organizations must add all members of their executive boards, both positions SGA requires and recognized by their constitutions, to NIU's Student Organization Platform. This process is to be facilitated by Student Involvement and the Organization Oversight Committee during the Annual Review process and during the academic year.
- C. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU's Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
 - 1. No individual shall occupy more than one (1) position on a student organization's executive board.
- D. All communication regarding student organization must be communicated using the Student Government Association (SGA) email address, or have it cc'd on the thread. Representatives of the student organization must also utilize the SGA representative's employee email address.
- E. Any major modifications or changes to the constitution that occur outside of the Annual Recognition or Transition Process must be submitted to and approved by the Organization Oversight Committee. Major modifications to the Constitution include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Changes that restrict or broaden NIU student membership
 - 2. Changes that pertain to the collection of dues within an organization
 - 3. The changing of the name of a student organization
 - 4. More than three (3) sections of updates to the Constitution due to an organization using an outdated Constitution
 - 5. Any changes to the Constitution that will directly affect the student organization's tier status.
 - 6. Changes to election provisions, additions required by the SGA Bylaws, or upon request of the Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee.
- F. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
- G. Organizations must have at least the president or vice president of their respective organization to attend CODE training in the fall semester of each academic year, only when Student Involvement or Student Government Association schedules such training. President or vice president must be certified to have completed CODE trainings to receive credit.

ARTICLE III

REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Section 1

Officers

These are requirements that need to be maintained for all officers of student organizations. These provisions apply to officers who are part of organizations seeking recognition or already recognized student organizations.

1. Each organization must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the president. Each organization must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the vice president and must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the treasurer.
2. All officers must be fee-paying students in good standing with the University and the SGA regarding all academic, misconduct, judicial, and student organization funding issues. To hold any officer position, an undergraduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 prior to applying, appointed, elected, and during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University, a graduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
 1. Students who knowingly assume office in violation of these provisions will have their position immediately removed by Student Government Association or Student Involvement. Additional penalties may be imposed by Student Involvement or the Organization Oversight Committee.
3. Should the cumulative GPA of an officer drop below the requirement when they are in office, they shall be allowed one grace semester to meet the requirement. During the semester they shall retain their position unabridged but are ineligible to be elected, appointed, apply for re-election, re-appointment to the same position or any other position of different student organizations. If they are unable to meet the requirement, their position will automatically be revoked and the vacancy procedures of the student organization to fill their position will commence. Appeals for circumstances affecting GPA requirement only will be reviewed by the Organization Oversight Committee, or the Chairperson of the Committee or Speaker, if the Chairperson is unable. They shall have the final say.
4. If the cumulative NIU GPA of an elected officer drops below the requirement, they shall be allowed one grace semester to bring it back up. During this semester, they shall retain their position and all its rights and responsibilities. If the elected officer is unable to bring their GPA to the requirement after the grace period, their officer position is automatically revoked and the officer next in line of succession per the organization's constitution shall take office immediately. Appeals shall be sent to the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee for consideration of circumstance.

ARTICLE IV

PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

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:

- J. Recognition specifically for fraternity & sorority student organizations must first contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) of Northern Illinois University to begin and complete the process for approval at Northern Illinois University.
 1. Upon the completion of FSL expansion procedures, reviews, and approval, a memo will be sent to the SGA Vice President and/or the Director of Organization Development and Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee of a fraternity & sorority student organization recognized by FSL. Upon receiving the memo, SGA will automatically grant recognition without any further action. The approval of an organization by FSL can be shared to the Senate by the Vice President, Director of

Organization Development, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee in their report.

2. FSL will ensure compliance of SGA required mandates for student organizations prior to the memo being sent.

K. 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).

L. 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.

M. Organization Oversight Committee Review

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 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.

N. Organization Oversight Notification

1. If the organization has no members able to attend the assigned meeting and does not contact the SGA in advance. The Organization Oversight Committee will hold the organization for three (3) months from the day it was introduced to the committee before the SGA Organization Oversight Committee may proceed to reject the organization for full approval. They shall resubmit all application materials as outlined in these Bylaws to return to the SGA Organization Oversight Committee for approval without time penalty.

O. Senate Notification

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 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.

P. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee 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.

Q. 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.

ARTICLE VII CLASSIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS

The Student Government Association acknowledges that there are several types of organizations that have different levels of responsibility to the student body, along with different support and resources. Organizations recognized by, or affiliated with, the SGA recognition process are classified as follows:

Section 1

Classification System

The Student Government Association assigns a classification to all Recognized Student Organizations, RSO, as we acknowledge different organizational types have different levels of support, resources, and responsibilities. Classification is determined through the governing documents the student organization adopts at the time of recognition, resources provided by a department if any, and supporting documentation. By default, all student organizations are classified as Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) by default. If a student organization meets the standards set by the SGA Bylaws that prohibit them from SGA funding, they are to remain ineligible regardless of their classification. Below explains the different classifications.

- A. **Governing Councils:** A governing council shall be deemed as any organization in which its principal membership is made up of SGA recognized Greek student organizations. These organizations are student-run but fall within the organizational chart of a department or division. They have a responsibility to serve larger, but specific populations of the student body. As such, they receive University resources that may include dedicated staff, priority access to certain University resources, and increased access to funds. These councils have the authority to manage the organizations that fall under them in ways that are appropriate to their purpose to include, but not limited to, required paperwork, attendance, follow all policies, procedures, and expectations of their national organization.
- B. **Sports Clubs:** Sports Clubs are student organizations that are competitive and are managed through University Recreation by professional staff. Sports Clubs receive additional departmental support that may include full-time staff support, coaches, funding, access to space and facilities, etc. Due to the nature of Sports Clubs, there are few items that differ greatly between these organizations and others:
 - 1. Members do not pay dues but may need to pay fees to cover the cost of equipment, competitions, uniforms and more.
 - 2. Organizations must follow all University Recreation policies to be recognized as a Sport Club. These policies may include items related to attendance, forms, reporting, number of members and officers, etc.
 - 3. Due to competition and practices, Sports Clubs may be exempt from some general student organization policies.
- C. **Recognized Student Organizations, RSO,** are student-run organizations that exist to bring students around a common interest or cause.

- D. Sponsored Student Organizations, SSO, are defined as organizations affiliated with a specific academic interest or university department serving a larger section of the student body.
- E. Competitive Organizations are student-run organizations that are not sports clubs but attend/engage in competitions.
- F. Restrictive Student Organizations are student-run organizations that are restrictive. Restrictions can arise due to criteria set on general membership or if dues are collected. GPA requirements over what SGA mandates for student organizations, limitations to specific colleges, majors, or years can be restrictions. Specific criteria for Executive Board members do not apply.
- G. Department Initiatives: Department Organizations are student-run but fall under the organizational chart of a department or division. They have a responsibility to serve the entire student body and as such, receive University resources such as full-time staff dedicated to the organization, dedicated space, a larger portion of student fee dollars, etc. These organizations will adhere to the SGA processes and requirements for student organizations wherever possible but must also consider processes relative to being a part of a department or division.
- H. Governing Councils: A governing council shall be deemed as any organization in which its principal membership is made up of SGA recognized organizations. These organizations are student-run but fall within the organizational chart of a department or division. They have a responsibility to serve larger, but specific populations of the student body. As such, they receive University resources that may include dedicated staff, priority access to certain University resources, and increased access to funds. These councils have the authority to manage the organizations that fall under them in ways that are appropriate to their purpose to include, but not limited to, required paperwork, attendance, follow all policies, procedures, and expectations of their national organization.
- I. Affiliated Student Organizations: Affiliated organizations are student organizations that are strongly affiliated with a department, college, or division. They tend to serve targeted, smaller populations of students affiliated with a major/career, resource center, or other department or division on campus. These organizations often, but not always, have an advisor who has the role mentioned in their job description and they often have access to various resources through their affiliated department, college, or division.
- J. Sponsored Student Organizations: Sponsored student organizations are student organizations that exist to bring members together around a common cause or interest. Even if topically associated with a college or major, they may not have any affiliation or support from the college. These organizations likely do not receive any additional resources from another area of campus.
- K. Sports Clubs: Sports Clubs are student organizations that are competitive and are managed through University Recreation by professional staff. Sports Clubs receive additional departmental support that may include full-time staff support, coaches, funding, access to space and facilities, etc. Due to the nature of Sports Clubs, there are few items that differ greatly between these organizations and others:
1. Members do not pay dues but may need to pay fees to cover the cost of equipment, competitions, uniforms and more.
 2. Organizations must follow all University Recreation policies to be recognized as a Sport Club. These policies may include items related to attendance, forms, reporting, number of members and officers, etc.
 3. Due to competition and practices, Sports Clubs may be exempt from some general student organization policies.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Frida, September 4th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58002

Fifty-Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to include and mandate an Ant-Hazing Policy for student organizations.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, H.R 5646, or the Stop Campus Hazing Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden in December 2024, requires education of student and staff members in higher education institutions about hazing, among other provisions; and

WHEREAS, although originally intended for the 57th Session to follow the spirit of the legislation, it was delayed to proper wording and reviewing any potential negative impacts of which none were determined; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association will require an Anti-Hazing Policy statement in SGA recognized student organizations governing documents, akin to the non-discrimination clause, to spiritually comply with H.R 5646; and

WHEREAS, current student organizations only need to copy-and-paste the SGA provided statement into their student organizations with the assistance of Organization Oversight Committee to ensure full enforcement by the end of the 58th Session; and

WHEREAS, new student organizations seeking SGA recognition will be required to have this statement; and

WHEREAS, current student organization failing to comply with inclusion of the Anti-Hazing requirement and having Organization Oversight Committee approve of the change will result in the disqualification of eligibility for annual funding for the 2027-2028 Academic Year by the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

**ARTICLE II
REQUIREMENTS OF RECOGNITION**

To receive and maintain recognition from the Student Government Association, all organizations must meet the requirements outlined in this policy. Student organizations that do not meet these requirements will be ineligible for annual renewal of their recognition and may have their recognition suspended or revoked in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 1 Constitution and Democratic Procedures

- A. All organizations must have their constitution, mission statement, and bylaws on file with the Student Government Association/ NIU's Student Organization Platform, which must include the organization's name, purpose(s), requirements for membership, method of officer selection and impeachment proceedings, and the non-discrimination clause, and the **anti-hazing clause**. All documents must be up to date. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and/or Director of Organizational Development to assist recognized student organizations and those organizations seeking recognition with creating and updating constitutions, bylaws, and other governing documents required for recognition.
- B. The organization's constitution must guarantee that major decisions are made in a democratic way by the membership or Executive Board at the discretion of the individual organization.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Vice President and/or Director of Organizational Development in conjunction with the Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee to ensure that such provisions are present and enforced in already recognized SGA student organization when there are new provisions added.

Section 2 Membership and Required Positions

- A. Every student organization must have at least one (1) advisor
- B. Student organizations must have at least three (3) interested members who are NIU Students to receive initial recognition.
- C. Student organizations that cannot maintain at least three (3) members registered in NIU's Student Organization Platform must work with staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.
- D. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President.
- E. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.
- F. Every organization shall include the following non-discrimination statement in their constitution:
 - a. As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX. However, registered student organizations may limit their membership and leadership to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's sincerely held beliefs or statement of principles, comply with the organization's standards of conduct, and further the organization's mission or purpose as defined by the organization.
- G. Every student organization shall include the following anti-hazing statement in their constitution:
 - a. Any act, whether occurring on or off campus, that endangers, or creates substantial risk to the mental, emotional, and/or physical health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, and or continued membership in any group, team, organization, society, or position. It is not a defense if a person subjected to hazing consented to, voluntarily participated in, the act. Any student, organization, group or affiliated individual who is alleged to have engaged in any form of hazing will be subject to full investigation and sanctioning outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctioning includes but is not limited to disciplinary probation, suspension, loss of organizational recognition and or expulsion of individuals and organizational entities. Hazing violates standards and values of acceptable behavior of the Northern Illinois University campus community and is strictly prohibited. Hazing is also illegal in the State of Illinois and is a serious crime by standard of legislature according to the Illinois General Assembly. Individuals

affiliated with Northern Illinois University who engage in such behavior may not only be investigated through the student conduct process, but they will also be reported to the Northern Illinois University Police Department and subject to criminal charges.

- H. The only exceptions to Part F immediately above are as follows:
- a. Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
 - b. Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
 - c. Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those elected from the constituent groups.
 - d. A student organization may outline in their constitution a desire to be a restrictive organization, where full membership and full participation is selected by a clearly outlined democratic process. A restrictive organization shall be unable to request any funding from the Student Government Association.
 - e. Student organizations that are part of a national organization and are restricted from establishing a local constitution at NIU can be exempt, pending review by the Organizational Oversight Committee. The student organization shall provide physical evidence and the national organization's constitution before the organization can receive temporary recognition as a student organization.
- I. The only exception to Part G immediately follows:
- a. Any student organization affiliated with a national or international organization that prohibits or significantly hampers changes to their governing documents. They will still acknowledge that they will comply with the University standards.
- J. Any organization that offers certain privileges or opportunities to a limited membership must clearly outline in their constitution how the organization's regular membership is provided with ample opportunity for involvement.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, September 4th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58003

Fifty-Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to revise aspects of the SGA Finance Policy

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 56th and 57th Session of the SGA Senate made substantial reforms to the SGA Finance Policy that clarified processes, removed redundancies and outdated practices, and ensured that funding is more transparent by; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Funding process during the 57th Session went smoother in some aspects compared to the 56th Session but there is room for improvement to make the process clearer, specifically in the timeline of Annual Funding as there are aspects that make it less clear; and

WHEREAS, one of the Student Government Association many responsibilities is the fiscal oversight of recognized student organizations and to reinforce the use of Huskie Hub to track all budget adjustments due to funding or use ensures there is fiscal oversight for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

**ARTICLE II
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1
Finance Committee Membership and Structure**

The Finance Committee shall be tasked with the oversight of all financial matters of the Student Government Association, including the allocation and oversight of Student Activity Fee money.

- A. The Finance Committee will consist of ten (10) voting members, seven (7) of whom are Senators, appointed at the discretion of the Speaker. The Speaker, Treasurer, and Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the remaining three (3) voting members. The chair of the committee shall have the power to appoint and remove previously appointed administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members, as they see fit.
- B. The SGA Treasurer shall serve as chair of the committee but shall only vote to break a tie. The SGA Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the vice-chair of the committee and preside over the committee in the absence of the SGA Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the secretary, who shall keep accurate records for the committee.
- C. The Finance Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 1. at least once every fourteen (14) days while the Senate is in session.
 2. Review the annual budget recommendations for each of the budget subcategories and consolidate each subcategory budget recommendation into one omnibus funding bill to be introduced to the

Senate no later than the second Senate meeting in April.

3. Assign SGA-recognized organizations and departments requesting funding to a specific finance subcategory for administrative purposes.
 4. Review any expenditures and financial approvals within the Executive Branch, including Event Security Fund and Executive Allocations.
 5. Introduce the fiscal policies and recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
 6. Review and approve Supplemental Funding and Event Support Fund requests.
- ~~D. Student organizations communicating with any member of the SGA Finance Committee or Student Government Association regarding finances should use the SGA email address in all communication and utilize the SGA representatives A ID email address, if they have one.~~

Section 2

Finance Subcategories

- A. The annual budget shall consist of four (4) subcategories. The annual budget requests for the Student Government Association recognized organizations and certain university departments and offices shall be reviewed in each of these assigned categories as determined by the SGA Finance Committee. Funds allotted to each SGA-recognized organization will be allocated within funding levels for each subcategory. Each subcategory's funding level will be set by the Finance Committee in the second meeting of the Spring semester.
- B. Any individual on the SGA Finance Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting Student Government Association funding. Furthermore, individuals currently serving or who have previously served in organizations requesting funding must abstain from voting and discussion and debate on the consideration of that organization's budget request.
- C. The individual subcategories are as follows:
 1. Tier 1: Non-Funded Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not annually funded due to any reason. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$500.
 2. Tier 2: Competitive Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not sports clubs or sport organizations but attend/engage in competitions regardless of their affiliation with a university department. Organizations must have already been annually funded, engage in a minimum of three (3) yearly verifiable competitions and are not involved in activity involving physical exertion and skill. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$5,000.
 3. Tier 3: Academic and Department Affiliated Organizations. These are defined as organizations affiliated with a specific academic interest or university department serving a larger section of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$2500.
 4. Tier 4: Sponsored Recognized Student Organizations. These are defined as organizations with a focus that serves their specific membership and have no real responsibility to the rest of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$1,000.
- D. University departments that provide members of a specific student organization with resources or other benefits, otherwise unavailable to the greater student population. This is the definition for Tier 3 student organizations.
 1. Examples include additional funding, a dedicated study place, use of department staff or materials etc. The Finance Committee can ask for documentation or the name of the department to ensure that they meet the definition of sponsorship or affiliated student organization.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

The following sections detail the timeline, process, and eligibility for submitting a budget proposal to the SGA for Annual Funding. All parties involved, including the SGA and organizations and departments requesting funding, must abide by the procedures and timelines outlined in this process.

Section 1 General Timeline for Funding

The final deadline for all supplemental funding, executive allocation, and expenditure requests must be submitted by March 31st of the academic year, no exception. The general timeline for the consideration and submission of proposed budgets for SGA Annual Funding:

- A. First Finance Committee Meeting: Shall be held no later than the second week of September.
- B. First Mandatory Budget Meeting: Shall be held no later than the last week of January. They can be held earlier at the SGA Finance Committee or SGA Treasurer's discretion.
- C. SGA Annual Budget Form Opens: The application for annual funding requests for the next fiscal year shall open no later than the first week of February.
- D. First Finance Committee Review: Finance Committee shall begin to deliberate and consider budget proposal once the Annual Budget Form opens.
- E. Annual Funding Application Closes: The application closes on March 31st of the academic year. No exceptions.
- F. Senate Approval: A consolidated list of all annual budget requests must be approved by the Senate by their final meeting. Once Senate approves the final budget, no changes can be made or appeals can be heard.

- 1. ~~First Finance Committee meeting — fourth week of September~~
- 2. ~~First Mandatory Budget meeting — second week of February~~
- 3. ~~Finance Committee vote on subcategory funding levels — second meeting of the Spring semester~~
- 4. ~~Finance Committee first meeting to consider budget proposals — first week of February~~
- 5. ~~Final Annual Budget recommendation completed — first week in April~~
- 6. ~~Final Senate approval of Annual Budget — last Senate meeting in Spring semester~~

Section 2 Eligibility for Funding

- A. General Eligibility for SGA-Recognized Organizations
Student organizations that have been officially recognized by the SGA Senate for at least one (1) semester ~~four (4) months~~ beginning on the day Organization Oversight Committee grants recognition, are eligible to request any type of funding. Full semester is defined as sixteen (16) weeks while school is in session. ~~Annual Funding.~~ Organizations with restrictive membership shall be ineligible for annual funding except for governing council organizations. Organizations cannot be denied funding due to the nature ~~or classification~~ of their organization ~~but their tier and classification~~. Greek chapters or other organizations belonging to a governing council who are recognized by SGA and meet the four (4) month recognition requirements for annual funding may request annual funding through their corresponding council.
- B. Eligibility of University Departments and Services
 - a. Certain University departments and services may also be funded by the SGA annual budget process if it is determined that their functions serve a critical need of the student body.
- C. If a recognized student organization disbands or ceases to exist on campus in an official capacity either voluntarily or involuntarily for a period of greater than one academic year, that group must go through the process again to gain full recognition.
- D. Honor societies shall not be eligible for annual funding.

Section 4 Eligibility for Funding

Following the budget meeting, Organizations must prepare and submit budget proposals to the SGA by March 31st of the school year. ~~and announced no later than the date of the first mandatory budget meeting.~~ To apply for an annual budget or Supplemental Funding, an organization must be eligible in accordance with the Student Organization Policy and the Finance Policy, must not be serving a suspension issued by NIU or the SGA Treasurer, and must have attended one of the mandatory budget meetings.

Section 5

Budget Proposals

Following the budget meeting, organizations must prepare and submit a budget proposal to the SGA by a date set by the Treasurer and announced no later than the date of the first mandatory budget meeting. ~~This date must not be later than the first business day of April.~~ Budget proposal packets must be made available by the SGA both in hard copy and online via the SGA's website. To apply for an annual budget or Supplemental Funding, an organization must be eligible in accordance with the Student Organization Policy and the Finance Policy, must not be serving a suspension issued by NIU or the SGA Treasurer, and must have attended one of the mandatory budget meetings.

Section 7

Finance Committee Recommendation

Following the completion of all budget proposal reviews, the SGA Finance Committee will deliberate and set recommendations for funding for each requester. These recommendations must be forwarded to the SGA Senate for its consideration no later than the first week in April in an omnibus funding bill.

Section 8

Final Senate Approval

The Senate must approve of the final Annual Budget by the end of the spring semester. The Annual Budget must either be a balanced budget or a budget with a surplus. ~~Once approved by the Senate all budget decisions is considered final and cannot be overturned by the SGA Treasurer, Finance Committee, SGA, or Student Involvement.~~

Section 9

Notification and Distribution of Budget Allocation

The SGA Treasurer must notify the President, Treasurer, and NIU Advisor of each student organization requesting SGA Annual Funding within two (2) weeks of the final approval of the annual budget by the Senate; how much, if any, of their budget was approved by the SGA Senate. All notifications to Student organizations will be done via the SGA email. However, it is important to note that allocations are based on the Student Activity Fee and may be changed if collected fees are significantly different than projections.

ARTICLE IV

USE OF SGA FUNDING

Section 2

Expenditures

- A. Any purchases or obligating money for services or items that have not been previously approved will leave the individual(s) personally responsible for covering those expenses. Neither Northern Illinois University nor the SGA will cover expenditures not pre-approved through the funding and expenditure process.
- B. All expenditures and funding, from requests or otherwise, must be tracked on Huskie Hub for accurate financial records that SGA Finance Committee may use to consider for all funding requests and ensuring of fiscal compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

ARTICLE V ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Section 1 Supplemental Funding

- A. Supplemental Funding is defined as funding made available to only SGA recognized organizations that is supplemental to their annual budget. Supplemental funding is only available once an organization's annual budget is exhausted or to complement the remaining annual funds.
- B. The total Supplemental Funding budget each year will be divided evenly between each semester, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Supplemental Funding budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.
- C. Organizations requesting Supplemental Funding must adhere to the following process:
 - 1. An application form, including reasoning for funding request and breakdown of anticipated expenses, must be submitted via NIU's organization platform, Huskie Hub, which if they are organized under a council or department should be submitted through that council or department, this includes but is not limited to fraternities or sororities under Greek council and all similar situations.
 - 2. The application will be added to the SGA Finance Committee agenda by the SGA Treasurer where the committee will meet and deliberate the request for full or partial approval, or rejection. The request must be added to the SGA Finance Committee agenda within two weeks of the application being submitted. The SGA Treasurer or SGA Deputy Treasurer may reach out to the student organization to revise the application if there are issues present before it is added to the agenda.
 - 3. Student organizations will be notified of full, partial, or outright rejection of the request via the SGA email or SGA Treasurer so long as the SGA email is carbon copied. Continuously contacting individuals associated with the finance committee, Student Involvement accountant, or SGA as a whole privately via social media, private email, or in person without scheduling a meeting in regards to the decision made by the finance committee may be viewed as harassment.
 - i. The SGA Finance Committee can rescind granted supplemental funds as a result of harassment. This may prevent future requests for supplemental funding due to harassment at the discretion of the Finance Committee.
- D. Organizations receiving Supplemental Funding shall use such funding only for the purposes approved by the SGA Finance Committee. It is the committee's responsibility to ensure that requests contain provisions for how the money is to be spent. The regular expenditure process is to be followed to ensure that such funding is being used in accordance with the specific request as well as all other SGA and university guidelines.

Section 2 Executive Allocations

- A. Executive Allocations are defined as funding made available by the SGA President for larger campus initiatives. Initiatives shall be classified according to the following:
 - 1. Class 1: Low Level – Organization that Organizations that are operating solely or in collaboration with only one (1) other SGA recognized student organization or university department. Neither of these organizations can be Tier 1 6. The maximum amount that can be given is \$2,500.
 - 2. Class 2 - High Level - Organizations that are operating in collaboration with at least two (2) or more SGA recognized student organization or university department. Neither of these organizations can be Tier 1 6. The maximum amount that can be given shall be no more than 50% of available Executive Allocation funds.
- B. Organizations must secure written formal agreements with one another by either a mutually signed agreement, email acknowledgement, or other written agreement if collaboration for purpose of requesting Executive Allocation. Any other documentation related to the purpose, event, or impact that will demonstrate the minimum requirements for Executive Allocation must be attached.
- C. For the President or Treasurer to consider and approve the request, it must meet certain eligibility

requirements. Those being: serving the greater campus, aligning with the values of the Student Government Association and University, be an approved event on Huskie Hub, and abide by the Purchasing Guidelines.

- D. The total Executive Allocation budget each year will be divided evenly between fall and spring semesters, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Executive Allocation budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.
- E. If the SGA President is affiliated with the entity requesting funds, approval of the request shall be handled by the SGA Vice President. If the SGA Vice President is also affiliated with the entity, approval of the request shall be handled by the next officer in the Presidential order of succession who is not affiliated with the entity.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

Old Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, September 4th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58004

Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to make substantial changes in the Office of the Speaker

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Clerk of the Senate is charged with writing minutes of SGA Senate’s meetings, recording prospective Senator’s attendance, and other clerical duties related to SGA archives which has the distinction of being a position that can be paid or unpaid, and done by a student who is not a member of the SGA Senate; and

WHEREAS, the resignation of Clerk Cameron Sawyer and Deputy Speaker Eddie Guerrero during the Fall semester of the 57th Session forced Speaker Nathan Gonzalez to perform the duties of the Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the experience highlighted the light caseload for the Clerk and the oversaturation of positions in the Office of the Speaker, especially as duties and responsibilities are also shared with the Parliamentarian; and

WHEREAS, it would be more beneficial to merge the duties and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Senate with the Parliamentarian as not only does it create ample workload for the position but reduce the large number of personnel in the Office of the Speaker.

WHEREAS, Speaker of the Senate Nathan Gonzalez seeks to explore ways to streamline SGA’s operations, especially in the Office of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, the experience also highlighted that there is no clear expectation of what happens to the duties and responsibilities if Office of the Speaker positions are left vacant; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the duties are properly executed in good faith in accordance with the governing documents of the Student Government Association this change makes the Speaker assume or delegate the duties until the position is filled; and

WHEREAS, by having this increased workload also forces the Speaker or the delegated individual to ensure that they carry out those functions otherwise they can face discipline from the SGA for not, as would a person in the position, would be disciplined; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1 Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

- A. ...[A-L in SGA Bylaws]
- B. 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.
 - 1. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent.
 - 2. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
 - 3. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee.
 - 4. 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.
- C. 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.
 - 1. 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
 - 2. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy speaker are required to attend this event barring extreme extenuating circumstances.
 - 3. The Senate shall announce and begin advertising the date, time, and location of these meetings at least one (1) week prior to the event.
 - 4. 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.
- D. 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.
 - 1. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
 - 2. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
 - 3. ~~The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate~~
 - 4. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for all recordings, documents, and records of the SGA as directed by the Speaker of the Senate. ~~accurate records of the SGA.~~
- E. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:
 - 1. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 - i. Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. Shall meet with Chairpersons at least once a month, and Senators twice a month, to help advise, monitor progress, or otherwise.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. 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.
 - 6. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.

7. 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.
 8. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
 9. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
 10. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
 - i. 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.
 11. Shall be a paid position.
 12. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
 13. 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
 - i. At the discretion of the Speaker.
 - ii. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.
- F. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 - i. Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
 2. 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.
 - i. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association's Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform.
 5. Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislative branches by working alongside the Chief of Staff.
 6. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association.
 7. 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.
 8. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
 9. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker.
 10. Shall ensure that members follow Robert's Ruled of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
 11. Shall work with the Election Commissioner or ~~Speaker of the Senate~~ Clerk of the Senate in archiving legislation, documents, recordings, election materials, or any other materials in Office of Speaker and Founder Memorial Library.
 12. Shall maintain a documented record of the history, activities, and business of Student Government Association and be a source of information for those who request it.
 13. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
 14. Shall be a resource of information on past activities and business of the Student Government Association.
 15. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures Committee.

16. Shall be a paid position.

G. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:~~

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

H. 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.

1. All positions that the Speaker of the Senate may appoint such as: Deputy Speaker, Clerk of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian fall under this Office.
2. The Speaker shall oversee the activities of the officers in the Office.
3. The Deputy Speaker shall oversee the Clerk of the Senate, and Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall reside at the bottom.
4. Unless specified otherwise, references to the Office of the Speaker shall assume to include the Speaker of the Senate and any other appointed officers.
5. If any position in the Office of the Speaker is vacant due to any reason, the Speaker of the Senate shall assume the responsibilities of the position or delegate it to a Senator or position in writing until it is filled. Failure to execute the duties assumed can result in disciplinary measures according to their appointed or elected position found in the SGA Bylaws.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, September 4th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58005

Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to eliminate and replace the SGA Supreme Court

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court serves as the third branch of the Student Government Association (SGA) tasked with the judicial functions of the government ensuring that all branches act ethically and constitutionally and provide resolutions to constitutional or other matters for student organizations and the SGA elections; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court has had their share of monumental influence at critical points such as the retroactively named 1999 Constitutional Crisis and 55th Session SGA Elections; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court has also had moments where it was completely nonfunctional such as 2004-2008 where it never met and during the 56th Session when the SGA Senate compelled the Supreme Court to explain their lack of actions such as appointing a new Chief Justice highlighting that the court's primary necessity has waned; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court was unable to meet during 57th Session due to lack of quorum, even with attempts by then-President Ja'Kobe Jone and Speaker Nathan Gonzalez to find individuals and at the start of the present 58th Session there is no justices left rendering the branch dead; and

WHEREAS, current SGA governing documents and precedents have politicized and paralyzed the Supreme Court and structural issues stemming from "weird" pigeon-holding clauses within the SGA Bylaws, or lack of interest from students to join the court, and lack of meaningful efforts to ensure Supreme Court complies with their assigned workload; and

WHEREAS, by reforming the Supreme Court and adopting standards shared by many other student governments in the State of Illinois, the NIU SGA can reconstitute a judicial body that is beneficial, practical, but able to function to serve NIU students without the structural faults that have befallen the previous iteration of the court; and

WHEREAS, removing aspects of the caseload helps to ensure that the new judicial body is able to remain neutral and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

SGA Constitution

ARTICLE II. THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Section 5. Organization

The NIU SGA shall consist of ~~two~~ ~~three~~ branches: The Executive Branch, under the President; and the Legislative Branch, called the Senate; and a regulatory body called the Judicial Board. ~~The Judicial Branch, called the Supreme Court.~~

ARTICLE V. ~~THE JUDICIAL BOARD~~ JUDICIAL BRANCH

All judicial authority of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Judicial Board or "The Board" ~~a Supreme Court~~. The responsibility of the ~~Board court~~ shall be to preserve and protect the rights of students as expressed herein. All ~~Judicial Board Supreme Court~~ decisions are final.

Section 1. Charge of the Judicial Board

The Judicial Board will have a workload that balances integrity of the Student Government Association and oversight of student organizations. The Judicial Board has these powers:

- A. Rule on the constitutionality of actions taken by the Legislative Branch or its members.
- B. Rule on the constitutionality of actions taken by the Executive Branch or its members.
- C. Rule on the constitutionality of any Executive orders issued by the President.
- D. Rule on the constitutionality of actions taken by any SGA recognized student organization.
- E. Rule and resolve matters pertaining to SGA recognized student organizations
- F. Interpret the Constitution and Bylaws of SGA recognized student organizations
- G. Decide the wording on referenda
- H. Release opinions of cases within twenty-four (24) hours to parties involved, the Office of the President, and Office of the Speaker.
- I. The Board cannot intervene on any election related dispute nor provide judgement.

Section 2. Board Selection

The Judicial Board will be made up of a total of seven (7) members, including the Chairperson of Board. All have the power to vote and decide on judicial matters. The Parliamentarian shall serve on the Judicial Board as an ex-officio non-voting member tasked with clerical and decorum duties.

- A. The Speaker and the President shall serve on the Board.
- B. One (1) appointee from the Legislative Branch selected by the Speaker and (1) appointee from the Executive branch selected by the President.
- C. Three (3) seats are reserved for neutral members. These members are to be appointed by unanimous consent by the incoming elected or standing President, Speaker of the Senate, and current Chairperson of Board set by the SGA Bylaws. They must also be confirmed via a resolution by the Senate. If the Chairperson position is vacant, all two positions must continue.
- D. A list called the "Reserve List" will be adopted and maintained by the Office of the Speaker. The list will have additional neutral members that can be called in for any recusals or vacancies. The list will be adopted at the beginning of each academic year by unanimous consent by the President, Speaker via the same mechanism as Neutral members. They must also be confirmed via a resolution by the Senate. If the Chairperson position is vacant, all two positions must continue.
- E. If either the President, Speaker of the Senate, and current Chairperson of Board is unable to consent unanimously to candidates for the list or three (3) seats, the Senate shall be able to appoint and confirm members via a 2/3 majority within one (1) month of the beginning of the academic year.
- F. All active members of the Board must sign a neutrality document, approved by the Senate.
- G. Any member of the Board can be removed from their position by either vote of their fellow Board members in a two-thirds (2/3) vote or two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate. The Speaker and President can be removed from the Board but not in their position unless the resolution to remove them specifies as such as provides sufficient rationale. From there normal vacancy procedures shall take over for those positions.
- H. Quorum of the Board shall follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 3. Code of Procedure

The Judicial Board shall have a Code of Procedures that governs the general duties, responsibilities, and procedures of the committee. This Code shall appear in the SGA Bylaws and be maintained as its own document. The Board shall review the Code of Procedures on an annual basis by the Spring semester. It can be amended like any aspect of the SGA Bylaws but must have approval from the Board or consent of the President, Speaker, and two-thirds majority of the Senate depending on circumstances clearly articulated to the Senate and all members.

Section 4. Chairperson of Judicial Board

The Chairperson of the Board shall be one of the three neutral members that make up the committee's membership. The Chairperson shall:

- A. Preside over all meetings and business of the Board.
- B. Cast tie-breaking vote in business affairs of the Board and their proceedings. They have no vote in normal functions of the Court, only in deciding cases.
- C. Be able to provide judgement for judiciary actions and opinions of the committee.
- D. Determine who will write the majority opinion of the Board and, if applicable, dissenting opinion of the committee.
- E. Release all opinions and verdicts of the Board to the President, Speaker of the Senate, parties involved in the case, and the Parliamentarian for purpose of archival keeping. They are to release opinions to student news organizations upon request or personal decision.
- F. Act as the Spokesperson, along with the President and Speaker of the Senate of the Judicial Board.

Section 1. Powers of the Supreme Court

Upon proper presentation of a petition from a member of the student body with standing, the Supreme Court shall have the power to:

- A. Rule on the constitutionality of action taken by any SGA-recognized student organization.
- B. Interpret the constitution and bylaws of SGA-recognized organizations.
- C. Rule on the constitutionality of action taken by the Legislative Branch or its members.
- D. Rule on the constitutionality of action taken by any Executive Branch or its members.
- E. Rule on appeals relating to the proper conduct of elections.
- F. Rule on appeals relating to disciplinary actions taken by the Senate.
- G. Decide the wording of referenda.
- H. Review and recommended changes to SGA governing documents.
- I. Rule on the constitutionality of Executive Orders issued by the President.

Section 2. Code of Procedure

- A. The Code of Procedure is the governing document of the SGA Supreme Court. It shall be upheld and amended solely by the Supreme Court, with the approval of the Senate. Upon approval by the Senate, a copy of the Code of Procedure shall be provided to both the Speaker and the President.

- B. The Code of Procedure shall be reviewed at least every two (2) calendar years by the Supreme Court. If no amendments are needed to be made in that time, the Supreme Court shall still submit a copy of the Code of Procedures to the Senate for approval.
- C. The Code of Procedure shall mainly be held by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and shall be passed to the next elected Chief Justice within the transitional materials. In the case that there is no current Chief Justice, the most updated Code of Procedure shall be sent to both the President and the Speaker to be passed in their transitional materials until a new Chief Justice is elected by the Supreme Court.
- D. The rules of the Supreme Court shall be outlined in the Code of Procedure of the Supreme Court. All judicial action must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Procedure.

Section 3. Selection and Removal of Justices

- A. All justices shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Senate, as vacancies arise. After their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accord with the removal from office procedure described in this Constitution. The Supreme Court shall be composed of five justices. Legislative Branch and Executive officers and staff shall not be eligible to serve on the Supreme Court. Members shall serve so long as they remain students in good standing at NIU.
- B. The five (5) Justices of the court shall elect one of their number to serve as Chief Justice. The Court shall have one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.
- C. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. A Justices objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedures.
- D. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.
 - 1. If quorum is unable to be met due to justice recusals or vacancies and there is a case submitted not related to SGA Elections or constitutionality of legislation passed by the Senate, the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to the SGA Senate with the SGA Speaker acting as Interim Chief Justice for the case, upon a simple majority of the Senate accepting to hear the case.
 - 2. Should the case not be accepted, the case will be treated as if the Supreme Court voted to uphold the current ruling.
 - a. No member of the Senate who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgment on that case. A Senators objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedure.
 - b. If the Speaker has to remove themselves then the powers of Interim Chief Justice shall fall to the persons outlined in the order of succession for the Senate.

3. If quorum is not able to be met due to Senate recusal as described in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph D, the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to the SGA Adviser.

Section 4. The Chief Justice

A. The Chief Justice shall be a voting member. The Chief Justice shall officiate at all court sessions, call the various people who will testify, count the votes and announce decisions to all concerned. The Chief Justice will be responsible for conducting all court sessions according to the Code of Procedure. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as the Judicial Branch's administrative officer and shall be responsible for requesting such funds as are deemed necessary for all court proceedings.

B. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to notify all students of charges brought against them, to inform them of their rights according to this Constitution and to ensure that the proper procedure is used in making such a charge.

C. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to maintain the Code of Procedure that is used by the Supreme Court. It shall also be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to call upon the Supreme Court to review the Code of Procedure and send any amendments to the Senate for approval.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to call upon the Supreme Court to review the SGA Bylaws and Constitution. Any changes that they deem necessary shall be brought before the Senate by the Chief Justice as recommendations which will be still voted by the Senate for approval, in accordance with the current procedure for amendments to the SGA Bylaws and Constitution.

E. The Chief Justice shall hold the most current and updated version of the Code of Procedure. The Chief Justice shall send the updated copy, pending approval from the Senate, of the Code of Procedure to the Speaker and the President. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Justice to pass the responsibility of the Code of Procedure to the Clerk of the Court or the longest sitting Justice in the event that the Chief Justice steps down from their position, regardless of the reason for vacating their seat as Chief Justice.

Section 5. The Clerk of the Court

A. The Chief Justice of the Court must appoint an Associate Justice to serve as the Clerk of the Court, with the approval of the Court. In the absence of the Chief Justice or their inability to hear a case, the Clerk of Court shall act as Chief Justice until a replacement can be appointed or the return of the Chief Justice.

B. The duties of the Clerk shall be the following: to ensure the minutes of the Court are kept, to record all court cases on audio or video equipment, to schedule all cases at the direction of the Chief Justice and to notify all persons deemed necessary of the date, time, location, names, and charges against those individuals to be tried. The Clerk of Court shall be a voting member of the Court. All records of the Court shall be delivered to the Parliamentarian or Clerk of the Senate for preservation.

D. The Clerk of the Court shall work with the Parliamentarian to archive and review past court precedents, so the Supreme Court has all available information possible. The Parliamentarian cannot vote nor voice in debate at any Supreme Court hearing, unless the case pertains to them.

SGA Bylaws

ARTICLE IV Judicial Branch

Section 1

Appointment Procedures of the Judicial Board

- A. The Judicial Board shall have a maximum of seven (7) members. Quorum follows Robert's Rules of Order for all business activities of the Board.
 1. The SGA President shall be a Board member.
 2. The SGA Speaker of the Senate shall be a Board member.
 3. The SGA President and SGA Speaker can each appoint one (1) member to the Board.
 4. The three (3) remaining vacant spots are to be left for Neutral Board members which includes the Chairperson of the Judicial Board.
- B. When the Spring Elections have concluded and all appeals have been heard, the President-elect, Speaker-elect, and the current chairperson of the Board shall convene to oversee appointment of Board members. Appointments can be confirmed by the Senate in the session before the President and Speaker take office up until the end of September of the administration they are serving.
- C. All Neutral members and Reserve list members are to be nominated unanimously by the President-elect, Speaker-elect, and current Chairperson of the Board. If one of those positions is vacant for any reason, then the remaining two individuals shall still be nominated unanimously.
 1. All nominations for Neutral members and Reserve list members shall be approved by the Senate in a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
 2. One of the nominations shall be designated as the Chairperson.
- D. The Senate can appoint any Neutral member or Reserve list in place of the above procedures if:
 1. The President-elect, Speaker-elect, and Chairperson or otherwise are unable to nominate members by unanimous consent by the end of August of their new administration.
 2. By written consent of any two members of the President, Speaker, or Chairperson. If one position is vacant then it shall be unanimous consent.
 3. If there are still vacancies among the Neutral Members or the Reserve List prior to the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate in the month of September.
- E. There shall be at least five (5) individuals on the Reserve List. There shall be no more than ten (10) individuals on the Reserve List.
- F. All Board members, except the President and Speaker, shall serve one-year terms with a two-year term limit. All Reserve List members shall serve for one nonrenewable two-year term. Any Reserve List member called to serve on the Board will have the new term limit apply to them as opposed to the prior statute.
- G. Once a Reserve List member is called to serve to replace a vacant position, they shall be ineligible to return to the Reserve List. Members called to serve due to recusal return to the Reserve List. No Neutral Member who has served on the Board can be nominated to the Reserve List.

- H. If there are any vacancies throughout the academic year the President, Speaker, and Chairperson shall follow these procedures to fill in the vacant position. If they are unable to nominate a replacement within fourteen (14) days for Senate consideration, the Senate shall take over filling in the vacancy.

Section 2

Code of Procedures

- A. Judicial Board shall be responsible for receiving and reviewing any petitions for potential Judicial Board cases that are filed with either the Office of the Speaker, Office of the President, or directly to the Board.
1. Upon receiving the petition, the Speaker, President, Parliamentarian, and Board members shall be distributed a copy of the petition. The Judicial Board shall meet within two (2) weeks of receiving the petition to determine if it should be accepted or rejected. The Board shall also consider if any member would need to recuse themselves due to conflicts of interest so a Reserve member can be called upon.
 2. The Board may choose to reject the case if it is not properly formatted or materials are missing. However, the petitioner(s) have the ability to refile for reconsideration.
 3. The petition needs only a simple majority of the Board to accept or reject the case. The Chairperson shall notify the petitioner within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting to inform them of the Board decision.
 4. If the Board accepts the petition, the Chairperson must inform the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) that the case was accepted, to prepare any materials, and the date and time of the meeting.
- B. The Judicial Board shall issue written opinions and orders constituting its final decision on any case accepted and heard by the Board.
1. The Chairperson of the Board shall assign at least once Board member to author the judgement and opinion of the majority.
 2. The Chairperson of the Board shall release the judgement and opinion to all parties, the Parliamentarian, and to appropriate channels as described by the SGA Constitution.
 3. A written opinion may be useful but is not required for preliminary judgements and other matters but must be written.
 4. In time-sensitive matters, the Board may vote by simple majority to announce its judgement and opinion orally and release a written version within one (1) week from the date or some other combination of oral and verbal.
- C. All judgments and opinions shall be filed by the Parliamentarian to SGA archives where it can be recounted by future Board members, SGA administrators, and members of the public upon request.
- D. The Judicial Board can amend their operational procedures for effective functioning through applicable legislation introduced and approved by the SGA Senate. The SGA Senate can also amend operational procedures via normal Bylaw revisions.
- E. The Judicial Board can recommend changes to other aspects of the Board via legislation introduced and approved by the SGA Senate. The SGA Senate can amend powers, scope, and other aspects of the Board not mentioned by consent of the President and Speaker with legislation introduced and approved by the SGA Senate.
- F. All Board members must sign a neutrality document upon their confirmation as Board member. This document shall contain language emphasizing members must recuse themselves if a case involves them, they are connected in any shape or form and to decide all cases they have no conflict with, in a fair impartial manner. Should there be violations the Senate can move to remove the Board member.
- G. The Judicial Board shall have the authority to overturn any action of the Student Government Association (SGA) as the extent of the SGA Constitution and Bylaws via Judicial Review.
1. A petition must be filed and shall be treated as any other petition brought before the Board.

2. The Judicial Board will automatically review instances that a Senator was removed without need for petition from the Senator to ensure proper procedures and rationale were met. If there are no issues, the standing stays. If there are issues the Board has discretion to open a case automatically or allow the Senator to file a petition to review their removal. Instances where Senators who are removed due to failure to uphold requirements as a Senator will not be considered.
 3. Should the Judicial Board consider a Senators removal invalid, their eligibility to participate in SGA be restored but cannot be granted their seat until the next session per Spring election or At-Large procedures.
- H. Upon written request of the President, Speaker, or a resolution passed by the Senate, a petition to consider hypothetical action or abstract question based on the SGA's governing documents. It shall be treated as any other petition subject to approval of the Judicial Board. These are Advisory opinions.
1. All Advisory opinions are non-binding and non-contentious and are to help inform the SGA of proper procedures based on the hypothetical action or abstract question posed.
- I. The Judicial Board shall have latitude to preserve status quo, temporary injunctions, administrative stays, or other conditions in the interim as the Board hears a case prior to a final ruling and opinion. This is only available once the Board agrees to hear the case.

Section 4

Duties and Responsibilities of the Judicial Branch

- A. 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.
- B. 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:
 - i. The total number of Justices is odd, and a tie has formed while voting.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. The Supreme Court must all abstain as they are directly connected to the issue that is being voted on.

C. 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:
 - i. They are no longer a full-time student of NIU in good standing with the university.
 - ii. Resignation from their position
 - iii. Removal from their position
 - iv. The Chief Justice vacates their position, whether by resignation or removal

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. 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 above until a new Chief Justice is confirmed.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, to inaugurate the Judicial Board, 58th Session SGA President Leilani Rodriguez and the SGA Speaker of the Senate Nathan Gonzalez, shall fill neutral positions by the Thanksgiving break so the Board can be operationally ready prior to the end of the Fall 2026 semester; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, in the absence of a functioning Supreme Court, the measures granting the SGA Senate Supreme Court's powers will remain in effect until the moment the Board is able to be operational whereby the aforementioned provisions shall automatically be removed from the SGA Constitution; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, all references to the SGA Supreme Court be replaced by the Judicial Board in SGA's governing documents and any conflict with the new provisions be stricken; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that a resolution be passed prior to the Board becoming operational to provide case opinions from past SGA Supreme Court cases, and any relevant student government cases from in state institutions, to provide judicial basis for future opinions and work of the court; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that failure of the President or Speaker to fill the neutral positions as expressed in this bill allows the Senate to take any perceived disciplinary action against them, unless failures arises from the Senate or its committees delaying in any shape or form.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, September 18th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58006

Fifty-Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to revamp the Board of Elections

Legislation:

WHEREAS, SB58005 was introduced to the SGA Senate on Friday September 4th, 2026 that seeks to eliminate the SGA Supreme Court and replace it with the Judicial Board that carries on the judicial practices of the Supreme Court while addressing the fundamental flaws of the old one such as issues for conflicts of interest and issues with forcing the Supreme Court to function if it lacks quorum or Justices are unable to meet within the constitutional provisions; and

WHEREAS, part of the reforms involves the Judicial Board not being able to hear Election related cases to prevent conflict of interest from the incumbent administration or deviate the Board judicial duties; and

WHEREAS, the current Board of Elections has flaws in its appointment procedures which can be confusing; and

WHEREAS, the appeal process is not as well defined and could cause issues for candidates who may have a genuine case of dubious standards being applied to their case by the Election Commissioner or the Board of Elections; and

WHEREAS, the general trend of other student governments in the State of Illinois is to let election related matters be handled only by the election body to insulate electoral politics from the current administration; and

WHEREAS, there still needs to be more solidified groundwork compared to the haphazard band aid that was passed by the 57th Session under Speaker Nathan Gonzalez, as the intention was for it to always remain temporary until a new system could be implemented which it now can; and

WHEREAS, the current Board of Elections has many structural issues at its core; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws 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 the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II

Election Commission

Section 1

Requirement of Neutrality

- A. No member of the Board of Election shall participate in the elections in any form, except for the duties outlined in the SGA Bylaws concerning their position. This includes, but not limited to: prohibition in running for office, public or private support or endorsement of any candidate, campaigning or voting for any candidate in the election.
- ~~B. No member of the Board of Elections shall play an active role in the campaign of any candidate. None of the above mentioned persons endorse, publicly support, or play an active role in advocating in public for any candidate or referendum subject to election.~~
- C. All SGA officials involved in the administration, tabulation, certification, or appeals of the SGA Election 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 groups or organizations with which they are affiliated. All Board of Election officials must sign the Neutrality document that Judicial Board members sign prior to conducting official business no later than fourteen (14) days after being confirmed by the Senate.
- D. Any Board of Election members that violates the Neutrality document, SGA standards, conducts or engages in unconstitutional actions related to their position or otherwise, or engages in any action or conduct that compromises the operation, fairness, and accountability of the election, regardless of intent, shall be investigated automatically by the Judicial Board for disciplinary measures or subject to removal by the SGA Senate.
- ~~E. Any member of the Board of Elections who fails to comply with the rule regarding Public Neutrality or whose misfeasance, malfeasance or incompetence jeopardizes the conduct of an election, will be subject to removal as prescribed herein and in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.~~
- F. When validating candidates' eligibility or in the consideration of sanctions, Board of Elections members shall abstain from verifying documents, discussion or debate, and voting on those with whom they share or have shared current or past organization affiliation, excluding the SGA.

Section 2 Election Commissioner

- A. To hold the office of Election Commissioner, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. Shall disclose their organizational affiliation to the Senate during their confirmation and inform them of any affiliation changes. They shall also disclose to Senate if they have a working relationship with anyone present in SGA.
- B. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Senate shall oversee the actions and performance of the Election Commissioner.
- C. If the President is unable to appoint an Election Commissioner once the timeline set by the SGA Bylaws passes, the Speaker shall appoint an Election Commissioner and confirmed by the Senate. The Speaker shall allow a one (1) week grace period after the deadline to allow the President to appoint someone. The Speaker may choose to allow the President to exercise their ability to appoint based on conversations, ultimately at the Speaker's discretion.
- D. If an Election Commissioner is not appointed by either the President or Speaker prior to the confirmation of the Board of Election members, the Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Election Commissioner. The Senate must appoint and confirm an

- individual to take their spot on the Board of Elections.
- E. When the Senate is not in session and the President nor the Speaker have been unable to appoint an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall take charge. The Board of Election shall appoint a Temporary Election Commissioner, with full rights and responsibilities without pay, by a vote at least three of the total five members. Once Senate returns, the Senate shall confirm the Temporary appointment or appoint and confirm an alternative Election Commissioner.
- ~~F. 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.~~
- ~~G. When the Senate is not in session, a Temporary 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 Temporary Election Commissioner will hold office until the Senate can confirm the appointment. 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.~~
- H. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include
1. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
 2. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy.
 3. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue warnings and sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
 4. 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) business hours.
 5. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) at least one (1) week preceding the week of Spring Elections.
 6. The authority to issue warnings and sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Warning, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
- I. The Election Commissioner shall only be removed during an election through resignation, the Supreme Court, or impeached via resolution by a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.
- J. 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.
- K. 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 or decisions relating to student placement on the final election ballot.
- L. The Election Commissioner will notify the Board of Elections on any decisions made within twelve hours. The Board of Elections will then vote upon the Commissioner's decision within forty-eight hours and within twenty-four hours during the elections.
1. If no vote is reached by the Board of Elections in 48 hours, the decision made by the Election Commissioner stands.

Section 3

Board of Elections

- A. 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 2.50 for undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. All members of must be currently enrolled students with no credit hour requirement for

members of the Board of Elections.

- B. 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. The stipend for the Board of Elections shall not be approved or disbursed until after the conclusion of the election cycle, including special elections. The Senate shall decide on the dollar amount of the stipend via resolution to be approved by a simple majority without input from the Election Commissioner. The limit for a stipend amount is no more than one-thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200). In the event the Senate does not, or is unable to approve a stipend amount prior to the end of the academic year, then the SGA Advisor shall decide an amount.
- C. When the Senate is in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedure:
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. Nominations for the Board of Elections must disclose any organizational affiliation or if they have a working relationship with anyone presently in SGA to the Senate.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. 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.
 - 6. 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.
 - ~~7. 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.~~
- D. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
 - 1. 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.~~ If the President rejects more than seven (7) prospective members of the Board, the Speaker can seek approval from the Vice President or Treasurer.
- E. Authority and duties of the Board of Elections are as follows:
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. The Board of Elections members shall have the authority to issue warnings and 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.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. The Board of Elections shall have the sole authority to determine the students who will appear on the official ballot based on the requirements laid out in the Bylaws.
 - 5. 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.

6. 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.
 7. 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.
 8. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
 9. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
 10. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Warning, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
 11. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
 12. 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.
 13. The Board of Elections will send out an email to the student body at the end of each election day about any official decision reached by the Board of Elections.
- F. 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 impeached via resolution by 2/3 majority vote of the Senate.
 - G. The members of the Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run in any general election, runoff election, or special election for the term in which the elections occur.
 - H. Organizational representation on the Board of Elections shall be no more than fifty (50) percent of the total make-up.
 - I. The Board of Elections shall create a video, audio, and transcript of all meetings.

ARTICLE V SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

Section 3

Filing an Appeal to the Board

- A. Prior to Election Day: All appeals to the Board of Elections must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours when notice was provided to the candidate. All appeals must be made in writing and submitted to the Election Commissioner who will notify all Board of Election members and any applicable party within six (6) hours. A notice will be sent by the Board of Election with a time and date on which the hearing will be held regarding the appeal.
 1. The Board of Elections will hear and rule on any appeal within three (3) days, except on election days or before elections start, whichever is sooner.
- B. On Election Day: Each day of Elections, the Board of Election shall meet at the end of each Election Day to accept and hear any request for appeals. Appeals may be made in person at the daily Board of Election meetings or in writing. No appeal may be made to the Board after two (2) hours after the close of the voting on the last day of the election, unless entirely new information has been discovered and the person making the appeal cannot be properly expected to know about the information.
 1. During an appeal, all elections will proceed as scheduled unless the Board concludes that the conduct of a fair election has been rendered impossible due to a violation(s) of the election procedures.
 2. The Election Commissioner shall exercise discretion to impound all ballots and seal election results for the positions affected until exhaustion of all appeal methods.
- C. Election Review Panel: If a decision is unsatisfactory for the candidate they can file an appeal with the Chairperson of the Judicial Board. The Chairperson and the two Neutral members of Judicial Board shall

convene within three (3) days to decide to accept or decline the petition. If accepted it must be decided within seven (7) days.

1. Quorum shall be all three (3) Neutral members. If any member must recuse themselves or is unavailable, a Reserve List member shall be seated in for the appeal. The President, Speaker, or their appointees can serve to fill any vacancy or have any decision regardless of they are neutral or election candidacy status.
2. The Panel may uphold, reverse, or modify the decision of the Board of Election or Election Commissioner only when (1) the action was supported by evidence or record; (2) violation of the SGA Bylaws or other governing documents; or (3) arbitrarily, capricious, or abuse of discretion. The Panel shall not substitute its own judgement for the Board of Election solely because it would arrive at a different conclusion.
3. The Election Review Panel shall have exclusive original appellate jurisdiction over appeals from decisions or actions of the Board of Elections or the Election Commissioner, as provided in the SGA Bylaws. If the actions violated SGA's governing documents a petition can be submitted directly to the Board only for review of their action and not in connection to the candidate's eligibility prior to the review or the Panel may initiate an investigation and case against the members by reconvening with the Judicial Board.
4. The Panel has latitude in remedying any ramifications caused by Board of Elections or Election Commissioner if the standards described above are met.
5. Election Review Panel decisions are final and cannot be appealed to the Judicial Board or anywhere else.

~~D. Prior to Election Day: All appeals to the Board must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the notice of action or decision of the Board of Elections. Such time of action or decision must be written on the hard copy of the decision or action posted in the SGA office. All appeals will be in writing and will be directed to the Election Commissioner who will, within four (4) hours of receipt of the appeal, notify the Board of Elections Members, and other persons who it may be reasonably assumed are relevant parties to the appeal, of both the filing of the appeal and the time at which a hearing will be held on the appeal.~~

- ~~1. The Board of Elections will hear and rule on any appeal within three (3) days, except on election days or before elections start, whichever is sooner.~~

~~E. On Election Day: Appeals may be made in person at the meetings of the Board, and no written appeal is necessary. Each day of elections and prior to reviewing any election results, the Board shall meet at the end of each election period and hear all pending requests for appeals. No appeal may be made to the Board after two (2) hours after the close of the voting on the last day of the election, unless entirely new information has been discovered and the person making the appeal could not be properly expected to have known about the information.~~

1. During an appeal, all elections will proceed as scheduled unless the Board concludes that the conduct of a fair election has been rendered impossible due to a violation(s) of the election procedures.
2. In the event of an appeal, the Election Commissioner will impound all ballots and seal all election results pending the exhaustion of all appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court.

F. The Board of Elections may uphold, reverse, or modify any action or decision of the Election Commissioner appealed to the Board.

~~G. Submitting an appeal to the SGA Supreme Court: Submission of the appeal must be made pursuant to the procedures set forth by the Supreme Court's Code of Procedure or in its silence by the Chief Justice. Copies may be obtained from the SGA main office.~~

~~H. Submitting an appeal to Student Involvement: Should the SGA Supreme Court be unavailable for any reason, the submission of an appeal can be made to Student Involvement in writing within twenty-four (24) hours after a decision by the Board of Elections or Election Commissioner. Student Involvement shall assemble a panel, chaired by the SGA Adviser, made up of Student Involvement faculty members and the SGA President, SGA Speaker, and any member of SGA. If the sanction, disqualification, or issue that is the subject of appeal pertain to the President, Speaker, or SGA member due to affiliation, same ticket, or they are the subject, they shall recuse themselves and the next senior position in their respective branch shall be~~

selected until someone who is not affiliated is able to attend the panel. This shall be the final appeal available and is considering binding with no avenue to overturn the decision.

Section 4 Disqualifications

- A. Each day of the election, the Board shall meet immediately following the time of the closing of the voting stations as laid out in SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Elections Procedure: Voting Stations and all actions necessary to secure the voting process. These meetings shall serve as the only point on each Election Day in which disqualification as a punishment shall be determined and issued. The Board shall hear all cases and issue in writing all sanctions and/or punishments it deems necessary prior to reporting tabulated votes.
- B. In addition to the sanctions stated herein, the Board of Elections shall disqualify a candidate at any date before, during or after an election upon commission by the candidate or person(s) acting on behalf of the candidate of one or more of the following: three (3) ~~five (5)~~ or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures before election day or two (2) ~~three (3)~~ or more separate violations of the SGA election procedures on election day(s).
- C. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are disqualifiable offenses:
 - 1. Any fraud relating to the election,
 - 2. Altering or destroying voting machines,
 - 3. Buying votes
 - 4. Intimidating other candidates or voters, or
 - 5. Repeated interference with another candidate's campaign.
 - 6. Accruing expenditures exceeding a total of \$2500.
 - 7. Extreme violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws
 - 8. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the Election Commissioner
 - 9. A candidate(s) or ticket(s) who is found to have falsified or omitted any Financial Disclosures.
 - 10. Interfering with another candidate's campaign.
- D. A note to disqualify a candidate from an election shall require three (3) of the five (5) members of the board to agree in writing.
- E. In the event a candidate is disqualified, the candidate will not be allowed to assume office and any votes cast for them will not be counted and will be reported as disqualified votes. A disqualified candidate will be disqualified for the entirety of the election for which they ran for office, including special or run-off elections. Sanctions and punishments, including disqualification of a candidate, will remain in effect pending the outcome of any appeals.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, September 18th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 58005

Fifty-Eighth Session

Summary: A resolution to amend the Senate Operating Manual

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.I of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “The Senate shall adopt a set of Senate Operating Rules. The rules shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.I of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “...adoption or amendments to the Senate Operating Rules.... and appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution”; and

WHEREAS, there are aspects missing from the adopted Senate Operating Manual which Speaker Nathan Gonzalez wishes to clarify as well as expand on several provisions over the duties and responsibilities of SGA officers; and

WHEREAS, each SGA Senator has received a digital copy of the proposed revisions to the SGA Senate Operating Manual; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented by this Senate hereby adopt the revisions to the Student Government Association 58th Senate Operating Manual for the 58th Session of SGA.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.