Student Government Association Senate

Northern Illinois University
Friday, October 2nd, 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, October 1st, 2026.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call
II. Verification of Quorum
III. Public Comments
IV. Approval of Minutes
    A. Senate Minutes 09.25.2026
V. Approval of Agenda
VI. Special Report
VII. NIU Police Report
VIII. Speaker's Report
IX. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
X. Committee Report(s)
XI. Executive Branch Report(s)
XII. Cabinet Report(s)
XIII. Old Business
XIV. New Business
    A. SB58007: A bill to reform the President's Cabinet
    B. SB58008: A bill to revise appointment procedures
    C. SB58009: A bill to revise Senator removal procedures
    D. SB58010: A bill to clarify appointment resolutions to the Senate
    E. SR58011: A resolution to confirm a Director of Public Affairs
XV. Good of the Order
XVI. Announcements
XVII. Adjournment

Please be advised that public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person, and that any one topic may not be discussed for more than 15 minutes.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations.

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: A Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, President Rodriguez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58007
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to reform the President's Cabinet

Legislation:
WHEREAS, the 57th Session reformed many of the Directorships and the general President's Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, however it has been noted by President Rodriguez and Speaker Gonzalez of some issues still lingering on that needs to be addressed, most of them originating in two aspects; and

WHEREAS, the first aspect is in the position of the Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs, which was merged together from the Director of Student Life and Director of Greek Affairs position that had long been standard within the SGA until it was reformed, believed by Speaker Gonzalez around the 54th Session according to his records; and

WHEREAS, the rationale was that unconsolidated directorships did not have enough work to do and were unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, though aligned with Speaker Gonzalez's dedication to streamline operations and consolidate or remove obsolete positions, when possible, the difference between student life and Greek affairs are too inherently different in nature, scope, and responsibilities that no one person can adequately represent two distinct aspects of student life; and

WHEREAS, the second aspect is that there is not a unified policy regarding appointment procedures for Directors, Chief of Staff, or Deputy Treasurer and this creates issues regarding how appointments are made, especially as they are considered paid positions within the SGA and for transparency with candidates and students;

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 III
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

1.

Section 2
Student Government Association Cabinet

A. The President appoints the Cabinet, which exists for the purpose of assisting the President in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. The SGA Cabinet shall consistof the President, Chief of Staff, and all paid Directors in the Executive Branch. The President may add the other elected members of the Executive Branch to the cabinet as members.

B. All Directors shall be appointed by the President (or Vice President at the discretion of the President) and confirmed by the Senate. No SGA official, besides officers elected through the spring elections, shall be paid without being confirmed by the Senate.

C. All candidates for Directors, Chief of Staff, Deputy Treasurer, and Election Commissioner must apply for consideration by the President or Treasurer. The application process must be standardized across all SGA appointment procedures and written records must be saved in a manner agreed by the President and Speaker. Otherwise, as set by the SGA Advisor. All applicants must abide by SGA qualification standards and be interviewed for proficiency, best fit, and general capabilities. Applicants must be informed if they were denied or accepted for appointment by email. Appointees are then to be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation.
   1. Upon the conclusion of the Spring elections, the President-elect shall be able to see applicants and subsequently appoint the Chief of Staff or Directors for the following session. The Senate shall confirm such appointments and cannot end their regularly scheduled Senate sessions if the President made an appointment. The Treasurer-elect shall be able to seek applicants, interview, and appoint a Deputy Treasurer for the next session.
   2. The President shall make every effort to fill cabinet vacancies as they arise. If a position remains vacant for more than five (5) weeks while the Senate is in session, the President shall submit a written rationale to the Senate that addresses their plan to find a qualified applicant for the position. Directorship applications will close when there are six (6) Senate meetings remaining in the Senate session and no more applicants will be heard by the Senate, except for appointments for the following session made by the President-elect.

~~D. Upon election in the spring, the President-elect shall have the ability to appoint members of the cabinet for the following session. The Senate in session at the time of a cabinet appointment shall conduct a confirmation hearing and vote. The President shall make every effort to fill cabinet vacancies as they arise. If a position remains vacant for more than eight (8) weeks while the Senate is in session, the President shall submit a written rationale to the Senate that addresses their plan to find a qualified applicant for the position. Directorship applications will close when there are six (6) Senate meetings remaining in the Senate session and no more applicants will be heard by the Senate, except for appointments for the following session made by the President-elect.~~

E. The Cabinet shall be managed by the Chief of Staff and shall report to the President. All Cabinet members, regardless of their position:
   1. Shall attend University functions where SGA attendance is needed at the direction of the President.
   2. Shall assist in the transition of any new staff ~~as needed.~~
   3. Shall create, maintain, and follow scheduled office hours. Hours must be scheduled no later than two (2) weeks after assumption of work and reported to the Chief of Staff, the President, and the Speaker of the Senate. ~~as set by the Chief of Staff.~~
   ~~4. Shall keep office hours, defined as work conducted during the normal business hours of the Student Government Association.~~
   5. Shall participate in workshops, trainings, and retreats as directed by the President.
   6. Shall work and hold office hours when the Senate is not regularly meeting, such as between semesters, as directed by the President. These work periods shall not be exempt from expectations to produce weekly staff reports.
   7. Shall attend meetings as directed by the President or Chief of Staff and submit weekly staff reports so they can be available upon request and present a minimum of one (1) report to the Senate each month either in writing or in person.
   8. Shall perform other tasks as specified by the President.
   9. Graduate assistants shall be eligible to apply for positions in the Executive Cabinet. If hired, they shall

receive a comparable University graduate assistant stipend.

10. Submit a written petition to both the Chief of Staff and SGA Adviser to overrule any Executive Order that is deemed unnecessary, inappropriate, or unconstitutional. A hearing is to be held run by the Chief of Staff or SGA Adviser if the position is vacant. Sixty percent (60%) votes are needed to overturn any Executive Order.
    1. If the vote fails, the opposition may write a petition to the Judicial Board of SGA to hear the case for overturning the Executive Order.

F. The Chief of Staff, working under the direction of the President, is responsible for acting as the Student Government Association's chief administrative officer with duties including oversight of the executive cabinet and staff, office maintenance, and assisting the President. The Chief of Staff shall
    1. Provide oversight, direction, and management to the executive staff by conducting weekly staff meetings, coordinating the overall activities of the Cabinet, assigning tasks, collecting weekly staff reports, assigning staff members Senate meetings to attend, and meeting bi-weekly with individual staff members one on one.
    2. Assist the President in the execution of the duties; this may include responding to inquiries made to the President.
    3. Assist the President in appointing students to serve on university committees and coordinate oversight of these appointments.
    4. Assist the President in staffing University events where SGA representation is needed, including but notlimited to open houses.
    5. Assist the President in coordinating staff evaluations for Senate review.
    6. Assist the President in preparing the Executive Cabinet for Senate review and approval.
    7. Act as a liaison among the President, Vice President, Chief Justice and Speaker of the Senate to ensure that alllegislation is signed and submitted to appropriate parties.
    8. Coordinate with the Student Government Association Office Manager to ensure staff are provided accessto computers, office supplies, and the copy machine and that the SGA office is presentable and aesthetically pleasing.
    9. Coordinate and keep track of all SGA inventories, including, but not limited to, SGA computers, cameras, printers, fax machines, laptops, and chairs.
    10. Summarize the weekly staff reports into a weekly report to present to the President.
    11. Update the Student Government Association staff manual annually.
    12. Shall notify the President within twenty-four (24) hours of when they receive notice to overturn an Executive Order. They shall organize a hearing withing eight (8) business days and preside over a hearing on the matter and will not have a vote unless in the case of a tie.

G. Director of Academic and Campus Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of staff promoting student wellbeing pertaining to academics, environmental quality, and general wellbeing. The Director supports campus initiatives and collaborates when necessary to campus partners.
    1. The Director shall coordinate with all SGA representatives serving on academic committees at their own direction or by the Speaker of the Senate or President.
    2. The Director shall oversee new or current SGA environmental initiatives, goals, or project in conjunction with the Academic and Campus Affairs Committee. This includes but not limited to Earth Week events, sustainability and recycling, green initiatives. Participation can also include other student organizations, University subdivisions, or community partners such as the City of DeKalb.
    3. The Director shall serve on the Provost Student Advisory Committee and any other committee that serves the academic interests of the student population that require SGA representation.
    4. The Director shall serve on Faculty Senate along with other SGA representatives. They shall also act as a liaison to all college councils and departments' student advisory committees and assist in the establishment of such committee if a department does not already have one and the students see fit for one. The Director shall also serve as liaison to academic offices including, but not limited to:
        1. University Honors Program
        2. CHANCE Program

3. Business Passport
4. Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL)
5. Orientation and First Year Programs

5. The Director shall monitor polices related to their duties and make recommendations to the President and the Campus and Academic Affairs Committee as appropriate.
6. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Campus and Academic Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.

H. The Director of Athletics shall work under the Direction of the President and Chief of Staff to represent all student-athlete interests, promote athletic programs, and serve as a liaison between SGA and Athletics'. The aim is to relay student-athletic concerns while promoting inclusive, engaging, and competitive campus supports culture. Other responsibilities include:
1. The Director shall represent the Student Government Association in any committee or meeting with NIU Athletics including, but not limited to, varsity, club, or intramural sport teams. The purpose is to communicate student-athlete concerns, provide suggestions, and relay feedback to SGA Leadership.
2. The Director shall collaborate with student organizations and athletics to promote initiatives, engagement, or support to athletic programs.
3. The Director shall be knowledgeable, monitor, and review SGA or University policies and procedures and make recommendations that impact student-athletes, campus sport environment. They shall also be informed and keep up with any legal statues proposed by local, State, or federal legislatures.
4. The Director shall work with the Director of Public Affairs to highlight and promote NIU Athletics.
5. The Director may attend any SGA Committee as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide reports or hear opinions but cannot participate in discussion or debate unless it relates to athletics, student wellness, or campus engagement.

~~I. The Director of Student Life & Greek Affairs, working the direction of the President and Chief of Staff to a bridge between SGA, campus offices, and student organizations – ensuring that students' needs related to housing, safety, financial services, health, and Greek life are heard and addressed. The Director also helps create events and initiatives that foster belonging, leadership, and engagement across campus. Other provisions include:~~
~~1. The Director shall serve as a liaison to the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), the NationalPan Hellenic Council (NPHC), Pan Hellenic Association (PHA), and the United Greek Council (UGC)student organizations. This communicates concerns from this constituency including relaying the information to the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life.~~
~~2. The Director shall act as the primary contact for University offices that impact student life such as Act as SGA's primary contact for university offices that impact student life, including Housing and Dining, Student Financial Aid, University Police, Judicial Affairs, and other student support services (such as Health Services, Legal Assistance, Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Office, and Campus Child Care).~~
~~3. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Campus Activities Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.~~

J. The Director of Student Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff to bridge gaps between various student organizations, student groups, the SGA, and campus offices. Such bridge should serve to address and raise concerns related to housing, safety, campus services and student wellbeing. The Director also helps create events and initiatives that foster belonging, leadership, and engagement across campus. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall act as the SGA's primary contact for university offices that impact student life, including Housing and Dining, Student Financial Aid, University Police, Judicial Affairs, and other student support services (such as Health Services, Legal Assistance, Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Office, and Campus Child Care).
2. The Director shall act as a liaison with Campus Activities Board and the rest of Student Involvement

for planning and executing student programming in a consistent manner and messaging. They should also be concerned with overall student engagement and activities.

3. The Director shall serve on the Student Conduct Board and any other committees that align with Student Life and services. This includes advocating students' concerns regarding parking and transportation and coordinating with SGA representatives on the Campus Parking Committee.
4. The Director shall attend the Student Life & Greek Affairs Committee as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide discussion or debate on topics where attendance is mandatory. The Chairperson of the Student Life and Greek Affairs Committee will rotate the responsibilities of secretary between the Director of Student Life and Director of Greek Affairs on a biweekly basis. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.

K. The Director of Greek Affairs shall work
1. The Director shall serve as a liaison to the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), the NationalPan Hellenic Council (NPHC), Pan Hellenic Association (PHA), and the United Greek Council (UGC)student organizations.
2. Facilitate communication and coordination between the leadership of the Greek community
3. The Director shall serve to promote unity, collaboration, cooperation and between IFC, NPHC, PHA, and UGC through any means if initiatives. Such unity shall also be done in conjunction or adjacent with the Fraternity and Sorority Department.
4. The Director shall attend the Student Life & Greek Affairs Committee as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide discussion or debate on topics where attendance is mandatory. The Chairperson of the Student Life and Greek Affairs Committee will rotate the responsibilities of secretary between the Director of Student Life and Director of Greek Affairs on a biweekly basis. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.

L. The Director of Organization Development shall work under the direction of the Vice President and assist in the oversight of student organizations including building stronger outreach, leadership, and operational success. This ensures that student organizations grow while remaining compliant with university policies, determining funding options, and development opportunities. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall be informed of all University and SGA policies and procedures related to student organizations. Along with the Vice President and Organization Oversight Committee, shall enforce those requirements or reach out to affected organizations so they can remain in good standing.
2. The Director shall provide advice related to recruitment, retention, event planning, leadership development to student organizations. This can be in the form of one-one-one assistance or generalized workshops. The Director shall also provide advice related to understanding and submitting financial support by the SGA.
3. The Director shall also help student organizations in utilizing NIU's Student Organization Platform and engage in media behavior.
4. The Director shall work with the Student Involvement and/or the Division of Student Affairs to recommend student organization policy changes such as the Student Organization Handbook.
5. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Organization Oversight Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.

M. [Continued…]

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: B Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58008
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to revise appointment procedures

Legislation:
WHEREAS, SB58007 is introduced to the SGA Senate at the same time as this bill, SB58008; and

WHEREAS, SB58007 revises the President's Cabinet, such as separating the Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs, but more importantly standardizes appointment procedures for all directors, Chief of Staff, and Deputy Treasurer positions; and

WHEREAS, that bill also calls on Office of the Speaker to adopt similar standards for appointment procedures, those being application/interview-based process for appointment; and

WHEREAS, these revisions, created and supported in conjunction with SGA President Leilani Rodriguez ensures that appointment process is open to as many students as possible, when applicable, but has clear standards and processes for all of those involved; and

WHEREAS, Speaker of the Senate Nathan Gonzalez also champions these changes and should be and always be the case for appointment within the Student Government Association;

WHEREAS, these provisions ensure that the Office of the Speaker falls in line with these new changes which have been consistent all throughout the 58th Session; 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
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1
Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

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

A. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
B. Legislate all matters of student interest.

C. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
D. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
    1. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
    2. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
E. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s)requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
F. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
G. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No personshall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensiveresearch, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
H. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.
I. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert's Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.
J. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
K. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
L. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.
M. 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.
N. 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.
O. 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 Parliamentarian shall be responsible for all recordings, documents, and records of the SGA as directed by the Speaker of the Senate.

P. All candidates for Deputy Speaker and Parliamentarian must apply for consideration by the President or Treasurer. The application process must be standardized across all SGA appointment procedures and written records must be saved in a manner agreed by the President and Speaker. Otherwise, as set by the SGA Advisor. Must abide by the same procedures used by the President and Treasurer for their Director(s), Chief of Staff, and Deputy Treasurer appointments. All applicants must abide by SGA qualification standards and be interviewed for proficiency, best fit, and general capabilities. Applicants must be informed if they were denied or accepted for appointment by email. Appointees are then to be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation.

Q. 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 theSpeaker 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.
14. [Continued…]

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: C Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58009
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to revise Senator removal procedures

Legislation:
WHEREAS, during the 57th Session, a bill was passed that clarified procedures by creating Section 7 of the SGA Bylaws that clarified the procedures for removing Senators to ensure that such action cannot be due to a disgruntled or vengeful Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the 58th Session passed SB58005 that eliminated and replaced the SGA Supreme Court with the Judicial Board and overhauled judicial functions of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, there are some provisions scattered around the SGA Bylaws that create initial uncertainty about which provisions to follow and how they should be applied as well as handling those appeals, some of which point towards the former SGA Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, although not inherently wrong in their current iteration, clarification can help both the Office of the Speaker and the Senators understand the procedures without needing to second guess provisions; and

WHEREAS, for instance making understanding the absence system clearer to a lay person will help SGA; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that failing to meet requirements means an automatic removal of Senate without possibility of reinstate ensures our procedures are being followed with integrity instead of allowing undue second chances; 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
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 2
Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

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

A. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
B. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate,

which shall be detailed as follows:

1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
   a. One (1) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing an entire meeting
   b. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing initial roll call during Call to Order of Senate. If Senate fails to achieve quorum due to missing Senator(s) they will be given one (1) absence.
   ~~c. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum isnever reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.~~
   d. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
   e. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to havequorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being meet, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
   a. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will beheld to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. ~~Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker's decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.~~
4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is notsubmitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid.

C. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Parliamentarian and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

D. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) or an ally training available through an NIU resource center during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
   1. If a senator has already attended CODE or ally training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
   2. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE or ally training of the semester has taken

place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE or training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE or ally training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.

3. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE or ally training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE or ally training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE or ally training during the term of their appointment.
4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE or ally training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE or ally training during a previous term.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE or ally training courses per semester with the appropriate university office or resource center.

E. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by theSenate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.

F. Senators may be invited to appear at events hosted or co-hosted by SGA and may be compelled to do so if the Senate Operating Manual provides for it. Senators cannot be compelled to an event if they have an academic or job conflict, the Senate Operating Manual does not require attendance, and if the Senate Operating Manual requires more than 1 public relations attendance per semester. Senators who fail to appear, if required and in accordance to Senate Operating Manual and Bylaws, must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not appearing or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

G. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective constituency. Senators may choose to work with other Senators in their constituency to plan and execute an outreach campaign. All outreach campaigns, conducted individually or in teams must secure from the Office of the Speaker written permission to do so and progress reports. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.

1. Outreach campaigns can take on many forms including:
2. Surveys asking for information and judgement on a policy being disbursed and collected by the Senator(s)
3. Tabling in the specific college or academic building that pertains to the constituency for interactions or information college.
4. A town hall event
5. Any other modality approved by the Office of the Speaker, with final say being the Speaker.

H. Senators are required to give a list to the SGA Speaker as to which organizations they belong to. Upon joining a new organization, Senators shall give an updated organizations list to the SGA Speaker.

1. Senators who join an organization that would cause them to violate SGA Bylaws Article II, Section 5. A.6 after joining Senate shall be removed.

I. Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for their work exceeding the required responsibilities and duties, during the semester. No Senator will be paid a stipend by default unless they complete standards dictated in the Point System.

1. The Point System shall be found in Appendix C of the SGA Bylaws and incorporated in the SGA Senate Operating Manual. The point system shall not be amended via amendment to the SGA Operating Manual and can only be amended by revising the SGA Bylaws.
2. The Office of the Speaker shall track and verify all points earned. Eligibility for stipend begins the first week of any Senate meeting of the semester and ends three (3) weeks before the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting. Any discrepancies or disputes of missing points shall be reported to the Rules & Procedures Committee for official review within one (1) week of initial notice. Appeals may only be filed once per session. Decisions by the Rules & Procedures Committee are final.

3. Documentation or any supporting evidence must be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate in writing.
4. If a Senator joins before the semester ends and earns points, they will be eligible to receive a stipend pending Office of the Speaker review. Any rejections cannot be appealed to the Rules & Procedures Committee.
5. If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.

J. Senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of Senate or SGA to any members of the public or press. Senators are required to point any questions, comments, or concerns to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as they are the main representatives of Senate. Should any Senator violate this policy, the Speaker shall enact disciplinary action up to and including the Senator's removal from office.
   1. Senators are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules and Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks' notice of the disciplinary action.

Section 7
Senate Removal

The Speaker of the Senate cannot unilaterally remove a Senator except in the case of failure to complete Open Meetings Act (OMA) training or failure to meet Senate requirements, or egregious actions related to conduct, ethics, or professional standards. Senators removed for OMA or failure to meet Senate requirements cannot appeal the decision to Rules & Procedures Committee.

A. Senators shall be removed, regardless of whether they were elected or confirmed by the Senate, according to the following provisions:
   1. Should a Senator to be deemed acting improperly through conduct or behavior, impedes workflow of the Senate or wider Student Government Association, fails to follow procedures or chain of command, or any other action unbecoming of an SGA officer; any member of the Senate including Office of the Speaker may petition the Rules & Procedure Committee to review the case.
   2. The Rules & Procedure shall determine course of action up to and including removal. If the person objects to the neutrality of the Rules and Procedure, the Speaker shall act on behalf of the committee.
   3. Should the Rules & Procedures Committee initiate disciplinary proceedings, the Committee can hold a hearing to discuss the case with the accused Senator. The Committee can choose to vote to remove the Senator themselves or submit a resolution as a recommendation for removal to the Senate.
   4. If the Senator continues the behavior or has at least one more complaint filed, the Rules & Procedure Committee shall write and present a resolution to remove the Senator and afford the complaints to be read fist followed by an optional defense of the Senator lasting no more than (5) minutes before discussion or debate. The Senator must abstain from the vote removing them.
   5. If the resolution passes the Senator cannot appeal.
   6. All other provisions mentioned in the SGA Bylaws related to offense and removal for Senators, such as attendance, are not subservient and take precedence over this section except for clauses pertaining to eligibility of reappointment or elections.
   7. The Speaker can remove chairpersons from their positions due to work ethic, or other actions, but not as a Senator.
   8. If after a conversation between the Office of the Speaker and a Chairperson not performing their duties or otherwise continues then the Office of the Speaker may bypass the Rules & Procedures and move to a resolution to remove the Senator.
      i. This does not apply to OMA violations as it is covered elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws
      ii. This provision does not apply if the Chairperson is the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Treasurer or other paid leadership position acting as Chairperson, approved by the Senate or as directed by the SGA Bylaws.

iii. This provision applies if the Chairperson is stripped of their position but continues to engage in conduct or fails at their overall obligations as a Senator.

9. In cases when Senators fail to complete OMA, the Speaker may dismiss the Senator in writing without any need for legislation. Senators cannot appeal.
10. ~~If the Speaker removes a Senator due to egregious actions or other conduct and behavior, they can appeal to the SGA Supreme Court for possible reinstatement if they accept the case. They shall only be able to be able to join for the following session.~~

B. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate again in the current session. The removed Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate, or any branch of SGA~~. , for future sessions unless the removed Senator files an appeal with the Supreme Court to gain the ability to run in the next session. The appeal cannot reinstate the removed Senator for the current session and must strictly be for the ability to be appointed in the next session.~~ No person who has been removed fromoffice in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.

~~1.~~ If a person is subject to any of above processes or under review by the Speaker or Rules & Procedure Committee for violations and resigns before judgement is made, either can block their eligibility to return to the session or future sessions, elected or appointed to the Senate or any branch of SGA. ~~Only the SGA Supreme Court can take on an appeal by the person to reinstate eligibility for future sessions only.~~

C. The Judicial Board shall automatically review the removal of a Senator done by the Rules & Procedure Committee, Senate, or unilaterally by the Speaker in cases of egregious action to ensure all constitutional procedures were followed, not due to the merits of a Senators removal. If the merits of the removal hinge on constitutional interpretation, then the Judicial Board could consider the case. The Board can determine whether they should take the case based on potential merits or potential or actual constitutional issues or errors like any other case before the Board. Should the Speaker of the Senate be the one who removed the Senator, the Speaker must recuse themselves from the case but supply and answer for information, as needed, by the Judicial Board. The Judicial Board cannot reinstate the Senator in the session they were removed but can have their eligibility restored by the Board.

D. If a Senator is removed from Senate by legislation, the Senator must vacate their seat immediately and their vote will not be counted for future vote counts from that point in the meeting. The total number of Senators will decrease accordingly and the amount for quorum will be adjusted to reflect the new amount of Senators that are currently seated.

1. If the Senator's removal causes a loss of quorum, the Senate meeting shall be ended due to lack of quorum and any legislation that occurs after the Senator's removal will be sent to Old Business in the following Senate meeting.

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect with any Senator affected who will abide by prior process until they are exhausted.

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: D Friday, October 2nd, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Rules & Procedures Committee

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58010
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to clarify appointment resolutions to the Senate

Legislation:
WHEREAS, Part I, Article II, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws concerning the Rules & Procedures Committee states that, "The Committee shall review all legislation for consideration in the Senate, including bills, resolutions, and petitions…"; and

WHEREAS, the Rules & Procedures (R&P) Committee brought forth an observation and recommendation that will serve to improve the workflow and efficiency of the Student Government Association (SGA); and

WHEREAS, the SGA Constitution and Bylaws states that certain positions are appointed by an officer and confirmed by the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the officer positions are most often than not, the SGA President but can be also from the SGA Treasurer for Deputy Treasurer appointment and/or the Speaker of the Senate for Office of the Speaker appointments; and

WHEREAS, depending on when those official appointments are made, those individuals must wait until the next R&P meeting so the resolution for appointment is adopted by the committee for review and voted to appear in the overall Senate agenda to be reviewed by the entire SGA Senate; and

WHEREAS, it was observed, especially as this semester R&P Committee approves the Senate agenda one week in advance due to the uniqueness in scheduling based upon Senator's availability for this given semester, that it can delay the appointees from potentially assuming their roles and executing their responsibilities by creating this unexpected delay; and

WHEREAS, the R&P Committee suggested that appointment resolutions be given automatic inclusion to the Senate agendas through implied consent when made official by the SGA appointing officers, so long as it conforms to OMA guidelines; and

WHEREAS, R&P Committee can still exercise review of the resolutions if the traditional format is not followed or trigger a motion to send the resolution to the committee during the SGA Senate meeting and will be formatted within an SGA Bylaw revision, to ensure constitutional compliance; 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
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 4
Senate Standing Committee Duties and Responsibilities

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

A. Committee on Rules & Procedures

1. The Committee shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate with the Deputy Speaker serving as Vice-Chair. The Parliamentarian shall also be a member of the committee.
2. The Committee's shall be concerned with the enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Manual. The Committee shall also be responsible for the conduct of SGA officials and make recommendations and/or enforce disciplinary actions according to the SGA Constitution, Bylaws and Senate Operating Manual. They shall have the power to remove Senators upon proper rational and approval of the Committee.
3. The Committee shall review all legislation for consideration in the Senate, including bills, resolutions, and petitions and ensuring that it meets requirements set forth in applicable SGA governing documents. This includes but not limited to providing advice, formatting the legislation properly, or making revisions.
4. The Committee shall review with proper management of the University and their subdivisions and can review and recommend revisions to established procedures or guidelines.
5. Appointment resolutions from the SGA President, SGA Treasurer, or Speaker of the Senate can be automatically forwarded to the Senate for consideration so long as it meets proper legislative formatting and released with the entire Senate agenda per OMA stipulations only when proper review by the committee is not time conducive. The Committee can force the legislation if not formatted properly or revisions are needed in the SGA Senate by raising a motion to table per Robert's Rules of Order.
6. Members of the Executive Branch may attend the committee as ex-officio members with the ability to give reports and hear opinions but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: E Friday October 2nd, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, President Rodriguez

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 58011
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Director of Public Affairs

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

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

WHEREAS, President Leilani Rodriguez has appointed Gabrielle Shaw to serve as Director of Public Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies"; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Gabrielle Shaw to serve as Director of Public Affairs for the 58th Session.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.