Student Government Association Senate

Northern Illinois University
Friday, October 16th, 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 15th, 2026.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call
II. Verification of Quorum
III. Public Comments
IV. Approval of Minutes
    A. Senate Minutes 10.09.2026
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)
    A. President Rodriguez
    B. Acting Treasurer Gonzalez
XII. Cabinet Report(s)
XIII. Old Business
    A. SB58011: A bill to refine the SGA Judicial Board
    B. SR58012: A resolution to confirm the 58th Session Board of Elections
XIV. New Business
    A. SB58012: A bill to revamp the Board of Elections
    B. SB58013: A bill to clarify and mandate an SGA Constitution test
    C. SB58014: A bill to codify formal relations in SGA Governing Documents
    D. SR58013: A resolution to confirm a Parliamentarian
    E. SR58014: A resolution to establish formal SGA relations
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.

Old Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: A Friday, October 9th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58011
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to refine the SGA Judicial Board

Legislation:
WHEREAS, SB58005 passed by the 58th Session of the Student Government Association Senate helped to establish the new Judicial Board; and

WHEREAS, a resolution later adopted some standards into the 58th Session Senate Operating Manual; and

WHEREAS, some of those provisions that make the most sense to be codified in the SGA Bylaws are now being adopted; and

WHEREAS, something to clear up for the new Judicial Board shall be statute of limitations as the old SGA Supreme Court never had any such provisions; and

WHEREAS, this will be part of a series of bills to add further refinement to the Judicial Board, prior to its operational status and once it becomes operational based on the experiences of the first Judicial Board; 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 IV Judicial Board
Section 3
General Standards

A. All cases shall be formatted in a specific manner, regardless of case type. The name of the petitioner, the party(s) who sends a case to the Judicial Board shall be listed first. Afterwards, with "v." And then the listed the respondent, named in the petition. Press and other communication may use the full name versus or "vs." but all official correspondence within the Student Government Association and decisions, opinions, and other matters from the Judicial Board must utilize "v."
B. There shall be a statute of limitations for cases. Petitions must be filed within sixty (60) days of when an infraction occurred that would necessitate Judicial Board review. Documentation of the date must be submitted. The Judicial Board shall hear no case that occurred the prior academic year.

BE RESOLVED, this legislation will take into effect immediately and thereby render any potential claims from the prior academic year null and void, where this shall include cases even if appealed to the current Supreme Court provisions in the interim period and when the Judicial Board becomes operational.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: B Friday, October 9th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 58013
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm the 58th Session Board of Elections

Legislation:
WHEREAS, Part II, Article I, §5 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that

WHEREAS, the bylaws stipulate that the five (5) persons receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws also stipulate that "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."; and

WHEREAS, "The two individuals that the Senate decides to be the alternates for the Board of Elections must be listed in the order in which they will assume the seats if a vacancy occurs. This order should be that the person receiving the 6th highest vote should be given first preference, the person receiving the 7th highest vote should be given second preference."; and

WHEREAS, "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, with each Senator having one vote. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the individuals in consideration for the Board of Elections be confirmed as members of the Student Government Association Board of Elections for the Spring 2027 Election.

Board of Elections

1. Nathan Gonzalez
2. Oluwatobi Kushimo
3. Sammantha Mostaret
4. Damani Thomas
5. Catherine Ademola
6.
7.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: A Friday, October 16th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez, Election Commissioner Adeoye, President Rodriguez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Election Commissioner Adeoye, President Rodriguez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58012
Fifty–Eight 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 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 in the similar mindset of SB58005 which eliminates and replaces failing structures with new ones to have a clean slate in essence; and

WHEREAS, unlike SB58005, it will still be called the Board of Elections; 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 SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

SGA Constitution

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Time of Elections

There shall be one regular SGA election each year. The Election shall be held on the last consecutive ~~Monday through~~ Tuesday and Wednesday of March. Runoff elections shall be held one calendar week from the date of the original election. The Senate may set a different date for a particular election. The Senate shall be considered to officially start at the first meeting after the previous session closes. If at any time the number of vacant seats in the Senate shall reach one less than half of the total number, then a special election shall immediately be called for all vacant Senate seats.

SGA Bylaws

ARTICLE I
TIMELINE OF ~~SPRING~~ SGA ELECTIONS

Section 1
Timeline of Election Commission

The Election Commissioner and the Board of Elections shall be collectively referred to as the Election Commission.

A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed according to the timeline below:
   1. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President by the first scheduled Senate meeting in October.
   2. Otherwise, the SGA Senate shall be empowered under the direction of the Speaker to appoint the Election Commissioner prior to the final meeting of October.

B. The Board of Elections shall be formed according to the timeline below:
   1. A single resolution should be responsible for nominations and approval of the Board of Elections with approval treated as bill.
   2. Upon the resolution's introduction, nominations of candidate's physical present will be taken. The resolution will be tabled and voted on the following week. Upon the second reading, the slate of nominations shall be voted upon by the Senate.
   3. If there are more nominations than seats available, ranked choice voting shall be utilized to determine which candidates secure their positions.
   4. If positions remain for the Board of Elections on the second reading, candidates may nominate themselves and be approved along with the entire slate of candidates.
   5. The approval of Board of Election members shall take place no further than the penultimate scheduled Senate meeting of October.

~~A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the first scheduled Senate meeting in October.~~

~~B. A resolution calling for nominations for Board of Election members shall take place no further than the second-to-last scheduled Senate meeting of October. Candidates will be appointed in the following week. If there are still spots open, they can be filled in the second meeting and approved with the rest of the candidates.~~

~~C. Candidate meeting shall take place after the end of winter recess and no later than the first week of February.~~

~~D. Candidate registration shall close on the second-to-last Monday in February. The ballot shall be announced on Monday prior to spring recess. No candidate may be added after this date except as a write-in candidate.~~

~~E. Elections shall take place on the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of March.~~
~~F. Election results shall be announced no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed.~~
~~G. Election results shall be posted to the SGA Office and the Board of Elections shall notify any relevant news publications of the results no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed. Results for positions undergoing appeals will be announced after appeals are processed.~~

Section 2
SGA Elections Timeline

The Board of Elections shall meet on a weekly basis determined by the Election Commissioner based on the Board's availability to conduct all election-related business. On the week of any SGA Election; normal, run-off, or special, the Board of Elections must meet every day until the ballot closes.

A. For Board of Election business, business days shall be defined as Mondays through Fridays. If holidays or when school is on recess for any reason during those days, they shall not count.
B. The first Board of Elections meeting shall occur no earlier than one full week after the Board of Election and/or Election Commissioner were confirmed by the Senate and no later than the week prior to Thanksgiving recess.
C. Initial candidate meetings shall occur no later than finals week of the Fall semester.
D. Candidate registration shall open the same week candidate meetings begin, occurring no later than the final week of January.
E. Candidate registration shall close on the second-to-last Monday in February. The ballot shall be announced the first Monday of March. No candidate may be added after this date except as a write-in candidate.
F. SGA Election shall occur on the last consecutive Tuesday and Wednesday in March with results announced no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls closed.
G. Election results shall be posted to the SGA Office, digitally, and disbursed to relevant news publications. Results under review due to an appeal shall be withheld aside from facts concerning the circumstances. Any result not affected by an appeal shall be released as described above.

~~A. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.~~
~~B. The Election Commissioner will schedule a weekly meeting of the Board to discuss the matters concerning the election. The Board of Elections must meet once a week to ensure that business is being conducted and all election items are discussed. All members of the Board of Election must complete Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training and be filled with the Office of the Speaker no later than sixty days (60) from when they were approved by the Seante.~~
~~C. All meeting times, locations, and agendas must be made publicly available forty-eight (48) hours before they meet but the Board of Elections can determine to have the meeting closed if they the information being discussed contains student private information, disciplinary action, or otherwise can affect the outcome of the Spring elections.~~
~~D. The candidates' meeting shall be held by the Board of Elections for both Senate and Executive elections. The Board of Elections members shall attend the meetings. The Board shall schedule additionalcandidate meetings if deemed necessary.~~
~~E. The Board of Elections shall meet on either the Monday, the Tuesday, or the Wednesday prior to Spring recess to discuss, finalize, and announce the ballot.~~
~~F. The Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election, runoff election, or special election.~~
~~G. The Board of Elections will meet until results are released as stated in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Timeline of Spring Elections.~~

ARTICLE II

Election Commission

Section 1
Requirement of Neutrality

No member of the Board of Elections can participate in the election except for the duties outlined within the SGA Bylaws – Election Policy. Participation should include but not limited to; running for office, public support or endorsement of any candidate, campaigning, serving as campaign staff, or casting a ballot for any candidate in the election they are overseeing.

A. The Election Commission must ensure that all decisions, communication, and are conducted in a neutral fashion. All candidates are to be judged on the merits of the qualifications, merits, and character. All Board of Elections must sign the identical recently approved Neutrality Document that Judicial Board members sign, no later than fourteen (14) days after taking office, being confirmed by the Senate. If Judicial Board and Senate approve a new document, that must also be signed by the same timeframe after it is approved. Documents must be saved on file with the Election Commissioner and Office of the Speaker.
B. 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.
C. All members of the Election Commission must disclose their organizational affiliation to ensure there are no conflicts of interest when it comes to the oversight of elections.
D. When evaluating sanctions, organization membership or other factors not pertaining to the specific charge or circumstance shall not be considered by the Election Commission.

~~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. 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 onthe 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.~~
~~C. 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.~~
~~D. 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

The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections. They are to oversee the general operation and execution of the SGA Elections according to the SGA Constitution and SGA Bylaws.

A. Additional duties and responsibilities of the Election Commissioner shall be:
    1. The Election Commissioner shall be able to issue warnings, sanctions, disqualifications, and hear appeals as outlined within the Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualification Section of the SGA Bylaws – Election Policy.
    2. All rulings and decisions of the Election Commissioner pertaining to warnings, sanctions, or disqualification by the Board of Election shall be done in writing. A written copy shall be posted to the Student Government Association office and on digital format accessible by SGA or NIU community within twenty-four (24) business hours.
    3. The Election Commissioner shall hold an Executive Branch debate no later than one (1) week before the polls for the election open.
    4. The Election Commissioner shall report to the President and is considered an Executive Branch member but cannot be called into a Cabinet meeting.

B. Qualifications of the Election Commissioner are:
    1. Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 for undergraduate students, 3.0 for graduate students and enrolled as a full-time student. This shall be designated as twelve (12) credit hours for undergraduate students and nine (9) credit hours for graduate students.
    2. Shall be in good standing with the University including not having any open conduct charges
    3. If the candidate holds a paid SGA position, they must resign their position, including all duties and responsibilities at the time of their confirmation by the Senate.
    4. Must score eighty percent (80%) or higher on the SGA Constitutional test as currently set by the Office of the Speaker. The President and Speaker of the Senate must verify the results. They must pass the test within fourteen (14) days of taking office. They have two (2) opportunities to take the exam.

C. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Prospective candidates must apply in the same fashion as all other SGA appointments and interviewed. Once approved, the President will confirm the appointment to the Senate for confirmation.
    1. If the President fails to appoint an Election Commissioner in the timeline set by the SGA Bylaws, the Speaker shall allow a one (1) week grace period for the President to finalize an appointment.
    2. If the grace period elapses without an appointment, the Speaker shall make an appointment with the Senate confirming. Appointment shall follow established standardized procedures
    3. The Speaker of the Senate can choose to allow the President to appoint someone based on their personal discretion.
    4. If an Election Commissioner is not appointed by either the President or Speaker and the Board of Elections is already formed; The Board of Election shall appoint a Temporary Election Commissioner with full rights and responsibilities but without pay one (1) week prior to the start of Thanksgiving Break. The Board shall convene and make the appointment via Robert's Rules of Order. The Senate shall confirm the Temporary appointment or appoint and confirm an alternative Election Commissioner. This provision applies if the Senate is not in Session during the month of November for any reason.

D. The Election Commissioner may have their employment terminated by the SGA President according to Corrective Action Procedures. The Election Commissioner can be removed from their position via resignation, Judicial Board action, or via a resolution introduced to the Senate and passed by a 2/3 majority vote.
    1. If the resolution fails but obtains a simple majority, the Election Commissioner will be denied their hourly rate, unless restored by a separate resolution introduced to the Senate and passes by a two-thirds majority.

E. Other important considerations concerning the Election Commissioner include:
    1. The Election Commissioner shall be ineligible to run or vote in the SGA Election they are overseeing.
    2. The Election Commissioner shall notify the Board of Election of decisions made within twelve (12)

hours. The Election Commissioner shall have final say on Election proceedings unless overturned by the Board of Elections or via the Judicial Board concerning constitutional violations.

i. If the Board of Elections must vote within forty-eight business hours to overturn the Election Commissioner decision, otherwise it shall stand. If the Election Commissioner is refusing to host or delay a meeting to allow the deadline to pass, the Board shall meet on their own. They must inform both the President and the Speaker of the Senate if that occurs.

~~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 forundergraduate 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. 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 bodywithin twenty-four (24) business hours.~~

~~5. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) at least one (1) weekpreceding 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.~~

~~G. 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.~~

~~H. 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.~~

~~I. 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.~~

~~J. 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

The Board of Elections is the body tasked with assisting the Election Commissioner in oversight and execution of SGA Election according to the SGA Constitution and SGA Bylaws.

A. Other charges of the Board of Election, including make-up, shall be defined as the following:
   1. The Board of Elections shall be composed of five (5) members with the Election Commissioner serving as the Chairperson of the Board.
   2. At the first meeting, a Deputy Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the Election Commissioner and confirmed by Board of Election members. The Deputy Election Commissioner must be amongst the active Board of Election members.
   3. The Board of Elections shall be able to issue warnings, sanctions, disqualifications, and hear appeals as outlined within the Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualification Section of the SGA Bylaws – Election Policy.
   4. All rulings and decisions of the Board of Elections pertaining to warnings, sanctions shall be done in writing. A written copy shall be posted to the Student Government Association office and on digital format accessible by SGA or NIU community within twenty-four (24) business hours.
   5. The Board of Election shall report to the Election Commissioner.
   6. 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.
   7. Recordings, transcripts, minutes or other documentation of meetings must be created and maintained by the Board of Elections. They shall not be released publicly until after the conclusion of the election cycle.
   8. Quorum for the Board shall consist of three (3) members, not including the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner must be present for the meeting to begin. If the Election Commissioner is not present the Deputy Election Commissioner shall serve their place but not count towards quorum.
   9. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
   10. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
   11. 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.
   12. 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.

B. Qualifications of Board of Election members are:
   1. Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 for undergraduate students, 3.0 for graduate students and

enrolled as a full-time student. This shall be designated as twelve (12) credit hours for undergraduate students and nine (9) credit hours for graduate students.

2. Shall be in good standing with the University including not having any open conduct charges
3. Members can hold dual positions within the Student Government Association.
4. Must score eighty percent (80%) or higher on the SGA Constitutional test as currently set by the Office of the Speaker. The President and Speaker of the Senate must verify the results. They must pass the test within fourteen (14) days of taking office. They have two (2) opportunities to take the exam.

C. Board of Election members are entitled to a stipend for the work concerning elections. The Senate shall decide and approve the dollar amount of the stipend, without input from the Election Commissioner, at the conclusion of the SGA Election cycle, including any run-off or special elections.
   1. The limit of the stipend shall be no more than one thousand and two hundred ($1,200).
   2. In the event Senate is unable to approve a stipend amount prior to the end of the academic year, the SGA Advisor with consultation of the SGA Speaker and SGA President shall decide the amount.

D. The Board of Elections shall be appointed to the following procedures when the Senate is in session:
   1. All people 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 theBoard 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 Board of Election members are found not to be in compliance with SGA qualification standards after Seante confirms them, they shall be automatically stripped of their position. The Speaker of the Senate or the Election Commissioner shall inform the Senate and a new resolution to approve a replacement shall be introduced according to the same provisions.

E. The Board of Elections shall be appointed to the following procedures if the Senate is not in Session for any reason:
   1. The members of the Board of Elections shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate with approval of thePresident. If the President rejects more than three (3) prospective members of the Board, the Speaker can seek approval from the Vice President or Treasurer.

F. Board of Election members can be removed from their position via resignation, Judicial Board action, or via a resolution introduced to the Senate and passed by a 2/3 majority vote. The Board of Election may vote to remove the board member which would require a 2/3 majority.
   1. If a Board of Election member is not removed by fellow Board members but reaches a simple majority, they shall be ineligible for a stipend. A resolution would need to be introduced to the Senate and pass by a two-third majority to re-establish their eligibility.
   2. If the resolution to remove fails in the Senate but obtains a simple majority, the Election Commissioner will be denied their hourly rate, unless restored by a separate resolution introduced to the Senate and passes by a two-thirds majority.

G. Other important considerations concerning the Board of Elections include:

1. The Board of Elections shall be ineligible to run or vote in the SGA Election they are overseen.
2. No organization, excluding SGA, shall make up fifty (50%) of the Election Commission. If verified by the Election Commissioner, Office of the Speaker, or SGA Senate Seante confirms overrepresentation one person representing hat organization who achieved the least votes or most recent shall be automatically stripped of their position. The Speaker of the Senate or the Election Commissioner shall inform the Senate and a new resolution to approve a replacement shall be introduced according to the same provisions outlined in the SGA Bylaws.

~~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 inoffice 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 positionwithin 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 theBoard 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.~~

~~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. 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.

Section 4
Board of Election Timeline

H. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
I. The Election Commissioner will schedule a weekly meeting of the Board to discuss the matters concerning the election. The Board of Elections must meet once a week to ensure that business is being conducted and all election items are discussed. All members of the Board of Election must complete Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training and be filled with the Office of the Speaker no later than sixty days (60) from when they were approved by the Seante.
J. All meeting times, locations, and agendas must be made publicly available forty-eight (48) hours before they meet but the Board of Elections can determine to have the meeting closed if they the information being discussed contains student private information, disciplinary action, or otherwise can affect the outcome of the Spring elections.
K. The candidates' meeting shall be held by the Board of Elections for both Senate and Executive elections.

~~The Board of Elections members shall attend the meetings. The Board shall schedule additionalcandidate meetings if deemed necessary.~~

~~L. The Board of Elections shall meet on either the Monday, the Tuesday, or the Wednesday prior to Spring recess to discuss, finalize, and announce the ballot.~~

~~M. The Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election, runoff election, or special election.~~

~~N. The Board of Elections will meet until results are released as stated in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Timeline of Spring Elections.~~

ARTICLE III
QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY

Section 1
Legislative Candidate Specifics ~~Qualifications~~

A. Senate voting seats shall be composed of the following constituents:
   1. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not exceed fifty-five (55) seats.
   2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than thirty (30) seats.
   3. Every Senate session should have available the following seats at minimum.
      a. Each of the NIU Colleges shall be represented by at least two students who occupies two (2) seats per college.
      b. Graduate students representing the Graduate School shall occupy three (3) seats.
      c. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy three (3) seats.
      d. Any enrolled international student shall occupy (2) seats.
      e. Underserved student communities shall occupy seven (7) seats and shall be defined as any group of students who are protected classes under federal, state, or university nondiscrimination policies, with one to be allocated to a Graduate student.
      f. Students not representing any of the above categories shall occupy four (4) seats as University At-Large representatives. Students who are undecided on their major may also occupy these seats.
   4. Additional seats for NIU Colleges shall be calculated utilizing the Student Government Association College Equitable Formula (CEF). Enrollment data will be derived from the Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications for the most current enrollment data from the 31st of January of the Spring semester the election is taking place in.
   5. The College Equitable Formula is as follows $C = (p/1000)$
      a. Where C is equal to the number of additional seats rounded to the nearest whole number.
      b. Where p is the total population of students enrolled in the specific college.
      c. Where p is divided by one thousand (1,000) and the resultant value, C, is rounded to the nearest whole number, representing Senate seats which is then added to standing two (2) seats per college. If the value of C is less than one (1), then no additional seats shall be added to that college.
   6. Where the True Enrollment Formula (TEF) will be utilized to determine the number of University At-Large seats. The formula is $T = (p/1000)$. Where total University At-Large seats T is calculated the total number of students enrolled, based on data derived from Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications from the most current enrollment data from the 31st of January of the Spring semester the election is taking place in, and divided by one thousand (1,000). Where T is rounded to the nearest whole number of Senator seats.
      a. Fifty percent (50%) if total number of T is reserved for those interested in joining Senate utilizing the At-Large process in the fall semester. Where the remaining fifty

(50%) is up for election during the Spring elections. Where two (2) seats for University Housing are open for election and one (1) seat is reserved for Fall appointments.

7. All questions and disputes regarding the seat status of any candidate or student shall be directed to the Election Commissioner. Decisions of the Election Commissioner on the disputes referenced immediately above may be appealed to the Board of Elections.
    a. Should the Board of Elections ruling on the dispute be unsatisfactory the matter can e raised to Senate where the Senate may pass a resolution affirming or rejecting the decision of the Board of Elections and setting the appropriate Senate seat number.

B. All candidates are required to provide proof of residence hall contracts, college affiliation, or resource center affiliation depending on the seat for which they are running. Regarding college seats, 'proof' shall be an official document or email received from the school; in the case of university-At-Large, an official document or email from the University. Proof for underrepresented seats shall be an email or letter from the resource center (If there is no resource center for an underrepresented group, then an official email or letter from a student organization representing the group will suffice.) University housing shall provide an official letter or email from the Housing Department/CA or official housing contract.

C. Each candidate for a legislative office must have the signatures of fifty (50) fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, Z-ID number~~, and local phone number.~~ The Board of Elections, in conjunction with Student Involvement, shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly checking if they are an enrolled fee-paying NIU student until fourteen (14) or more have been validated. Signatures of students who are not enrolled students shall be considered invalid and do not count towards the requirement. Judicial Board or Election Commission members may not sign petitions for candidacy~~. randomly calling names listed on each candidate's petition until fourteen (14) or more have been validated. Signatures that have phone numbers that are disconnected or nonexistent shall be considered invalid and shall not count towards the required number of signatures on the petition nor the total amount of required verified signatures. Existing phone numbers that are called but not answered shall not be considered as invalid or validated and can only count towards the total number of signatures required on a petition. Members of the SGA Supreme Court or the Board of Elections may not sign petitions for candidacy.~~

D. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.

E. Legislative candidates may only form campaigning teams with other legislative candidates. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for executive offices.

F. If an elected or appointed Senator changes their major in a way that also changes their academic college, "they shall have five business days to inform the Speaker of the Senate of this change, and shall provide a letter from both their academic advisor and the new academic college, and" the following procedure shall be implemented:
    1. If there is an available seat within the Senator's new college, they will be allowed to switch their constituency to that college.
    2. If there is not a seat available in the Senator's new college, and the Senator can provide proof of affiliation with an underserved community, and there is an open Underserved Communities seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to Underserved Communities.
    3. If there is not an available seat in the Senator's new college, nor an available "Underserved Communities" seat, but there is an open "University At-Large" seat, the Senator will be allowed to switch their constituency to University At-Large.
    4. If none of the above options are available, a temporary "University At-Large" seat shall be generated for the Senator to fill and the number of total Senate seats available shall be increased by one (1) for the remainder of the session.
    5. If the final step in this procedure is reached and a temporary At-Large seat is created, but a

seat in the Senator's new academic college becomes available, the temporary At-Large seat shall be dissolved, the number of Senate seats reduced by one (1), and the Senator's constituency moved into their new Academic College seat as soon as possible.

A. Other changes to Senate seat constituencies shall not be permitted.

Section 2
Executive Candidate Specifics ~~Qualifications~~

A. Each candidate for executive office must have the signatures of at least seventy-five (75) fee-paying NIU students on their official petition. Each person who signs a petition shall give their printed name, signature, and Z-ID number. The Board of Elections, in conjunction with Student Involvement, shall check on the validity of signatures by randomly checking if they are an enrolled fee-paying NIU student until twenty-five (25) or more have been validated. Signatures of students who are not enrolled students shall be considered invalid and do not count towards the requirement. Judicial Board or Election Commission members may not sign petitions for candidacy.

B. Proxy signatures on petitions are invalid signatures and shall not be counted towards the total number of required signatures nor the verified signatures. Proxy signatures shall only be considered valid with a letter of exemption by the Disability Resource Center indicating physical incapacity to sign for oneself.

C. Candidates may only form campaigning teams with other executive candidates running for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee. Candidates are prohibited from forming teams with candidates running for legislative office.

Section 3
Qualifications for All Candidates

Refer to the SGA Constitution for the most up-to-date qualifications.

A. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and anyother pertinent information to the Student Government Association Board of Elections and Student Involvement allowing the Commissioner to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records. Candidates must also be in good standing with the Conduct Office and Civil Rights Office.

B. Candidates for Student Government Association offices must do each of the following prior to campaigning or being placed on the ballot:
   1. Attend the candidates' meeting.
   2. Receive, complete, and return the registration packet with the petitions
   3. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency upon request.
   ~~4. Qualify for office.~~
   5. Receive notification from the Board of Elections of eligibility for office.

C. All petitions and all sheets on which candidates for office seek signatures shall include the following:
   1. The name of the candidate on whose behalf the petition is being signed in compliance with the appropriate section of the SGA Bylaws.
   2. The office the candidate is applying for.
   3. All other wording as required/determined by the Board of Elections.

D. The name candidates list on their registration and petition documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear on the petition preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.

~~E.~~ Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with ethical standards that include, but are not limited to, the Northern Illinois University Code of Ethics, for the duration of the elections. Violations of these standards are subject to the sanction policy ~~laid out in Article V Section II and III.~~

~~F. Candidates for any SGA office are required to obey all applicable rules. Candidates who fail to qualify under all the rules described herein shall not be considered candidates. They shall be allowed to campaign for themselves as long as they meet with the election commissioner and get approval from the board of elections.~~

~~This process must also be followed for approval relating to media used in campaigning.~~

G. All candidates must abide by the policies and regulations set by the SGA, University and applicable laws. Candidates who miss application deadlines, fail any of the qualifications for office are not permitted to appear on the ballot for the election cycle and cannot appeal. They can run in the next election cycle or special or run-off election if they possess those missing qualifications.

Section 4
Write-In Candidates

A. Spaces must be provided on the ballot for write-in candidates. These spaces must equal the number of available seats being contested. Write-in candidates must submit all requisite forms and documents within forty-eight (48) hours following the closing of the polls.
    1. The requisite forms and documents are defined as the following
        a. All candidates for a Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and any other pertinent information to the Student Government Association Board of Elections, allowing the Commissioner to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
        b. Provide proof of student status, hours enrolled, and residency as needed.
        c. The name candidates list on their registration documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.

B. If a write-in candidate has not properly registered within forty-eight (48) hours following the closing of the election, the votes cast for the candidate will not be counted in the determination of winners for that office even though the ballot itself is still valid. The remaining votes will determine the winner. Any candidate who is not properlyregistered may not win an election and shall be considered disqualified.
    1. Proper registration is defined as having filled out the requisite forms and documents listed in Bylaws Part II Article III Section 4.A.1 as well as
        a. Attend the candidates' meeting.
        b. Qualify for office.
        c. Present the BOE with a petition with the appropriate number of signatures needed for their prospective office unless the candidate has received that number or greater of write in votes.
            i. Petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 3.C for all write in candidates.
            ii. In addition petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 1.D and E for legislative write in candidates.
            iii. In addition petitions shall follow the same regulations as defined above in Bylaws Part II Article III Sections 2.A and B for executive write in candidates.
        d. Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with ethical standards that include, but are not limited to, the Northern Illinois University Code of Ethics, for the duration of the elections. Violations of these standards are subject to the sanction policy laid out in Article V Section II and III.
        e. Candidates for any SGA office are required to obey all applicable rules. Candidates who fail to qualify under all the rules described herein shall not be considered candidates.

C. All write-in votes cast for persons who have registered as write-in candidates will be counted and reported with the election results. A write-in vote cast for a person whose name already appears on the ballot will be counted as a vote for that candidate. Any write-in candidate may win an election if they comply with the registration requirements of the election procedures.

ARTICLE IV
CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

Section 1
General Campaigning

Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes people identified as campaign staff, members of the same ticket, candidates themselves, or people not recognized as campaign personnel. Campaigning can be done through physical interactions, written or verbal materials, and digital methods. The Board of Elections and the Election Commissioner shall ensure all people abide by the SGA Bylaws – Election Policy.

A. Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes physical and written campaign materials, electronic campaigning, campaign personnel, and verbal campaigning. Campaigning of any
B. Campaigning through any means is not permitted at the following locations:
    1. University classrooms on weekdays between 7 AM and 9 PM, including distribution of materials or speeches.
    2. Any library on campus except for approved materials on approved bulletin board set by the Board of Elections.
    3. The Huskie Line bus whether they are in motion or not.
    4. Door-to-door solicitation in residence halls.
    5. One hundred feet (100 feet) from any physical polling station on Election Day.
    6. Campaigning is allowed in the MLK Commons and Holmes Student Center, except for hotel floors, prior to and on Election Day unless there is a physical polling station.
    7. When Board of Elections are meeting within Student Government Association offices in the OASIS Suite, campaigning is not allowed. They can resume when Board of Elections concludes their meeting.
C. Unless otherwise noted, campaigning is always permitted in the Holmes Student Center, MLK Commons, Central Park, East Lagoon, and open parks on NIU property until polls close.
D. No campaigning done by camping personnel, ticket members, or the candidate themselves cannot attack the character of a candidate not pertaining to their qualifications as a speech. This includes physical, verbal, written, or digital campaign means. The Board of Elections shall decide the merits and decide accordingly.
E. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I) or agentic A.I for the purposes of campaigning are prohibited in their entirety. This includes posters or written materials to be posted on campus, distribution, or digital use are prohibited. Deepfakes or similar technology shall not be utilized in any shape or form.
F. If the election is conducted in an electronic or hybrid format, no candidate may provide the ballot/link, open the ballot/link, or remain present in the vicinity as they are voting. If they the student is having issues with the ballot/link the candidate must direct them to the Election Commissioner, Board of Elections, or Speaker of the Senate. Any rendering of assistance shall be considered influencing a voter by the Election Commission.

Section 2
Physical, Written, and Verbal Campaigning

Physical and written campaigns shall be defined as support for a candidate via physical presence on campus or any written, tangible materials to be disseminated among voters that display support or opposition to a candidate or ticket. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.

A. All physical and written campaign materials must be submitted to the Board of Elections for approval and cannot be distributed prior to approval. Printed posters must be stamped by the Student Involvement office and approved by the Board of Elections. Other printed campaign materials for distribution must be approved by the Board of Elections prior to dissemination.

B. In the case of yard signs or similar objects, the office of Student Involvement must approve of the content, and the University Grounds Department must approve the location of the posting when applicable. A color photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.
C. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
D. No campaign material shall be allowed where it may physically deface or destroy property, such as posted materials, stickers or any other form of self-adhesive materials, buttons, and any other material deemed potentially destructive by the Board of Elections. Adhesives must be approved by the Board of Elections prior to use. In questions of defacement or removability, a candidate or designee's successive demonstrations of removability in all instances shall be sufficient.
E. Any damages sustained by property, University or otherwise, shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate(s). Damage may include excessive litter of campaign materials as determined by the Board of Elections, and the individuals in violation shall be held liable for any damage caused which require professional repair.
F. Speeches performed by candidates, their personnel, or ticket members must not disparage or otherwise incite harm or create hostile environment. Speeches cannot be performed within classrooms, regardless of whether permission was secured from the instructor or if class is in or out of session.

Section 3
Digital Campaigning

Digital campaigning shall be defined as any form of campaign materials accessible using electronic devices, such as but not limited to social media platforms, career or networking platforms, instant messaging, or emails. Videos of speeches, digitalized versions of distributed physical or written campaign materials or posters are also considered as digital campaigning.

A. Digital campaign materials shall abide by the verbal and written campaign regulations. Digital materials must still be approved by the Board of Elections prior to being posted or distributed on such digital formats.

Section 4
Campaign Personnel

Campaign personnel shall be defined as any individual or organization actively working to further the campaign to further the campaign, with or without, the express consent or knowledge of the candidate(s).

A. Candidates must disclose the involvement of active personnel in campaign efforts such as teams or managers to the Board of Elections in the timeframe set by the Board or SGA Bylaws.
B. Failure to disclose personnel shall result in sanctions being applied to the candidate. Any person found to engage in conduct to inflict harm on another candidate's campaign shall be referred to Student Conduct with the Board of Elections tasked with determining if the election was severely impacted.

Section 5
Sanctions

All campaign regulations apply to all candidates, Executive or Legislative, including write-in candidates. Violations of campaign regulations can result in disciplinary action from the Election Commission. See Sanctions, Appeals, Disqualification section of the SGA Bylaws.

~~**Section 1**~~
~~**Campaigning**~~

~~Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes physical and written~~

campaign materials, electronic campaigning, campaign personnel, and verbal campaigning.

A. Campaigning of any type is not permitted at the following locations.
   a. University classrooms on weekdays between 7 AM and 9 PM regardless of type and materials distributed.
   b. Any libraries except for posting materials on the bulletin board with appropriate approvals.
   c. The Huskie Bus Line whether they are moving or not.
   d. Door-to-door solicitation in residence halls.
   e. One hundred feet (100 feet) from any polling station during Election Day. For elections that have only digital election or hybrid, campaigning is allowed in the MLK Commons and Holmes Student Center, except for any hotel floors. Locations already restricted, as noted above, is still not permitted including residence halls.

B. Campaigning is always allowed at the Holmes Student Center, with exception of any hotel floors and the MLK Commons up until polls closed. Campaigning is allowed in Residence Hall lobbies only.

Section 2
Physical and Written Campaign Materials

G. Physical and written campaign materials shall be defined as any written or tangible materials to be disseminated among voters that display support or opposition for a candidate or ticket.

H. All physical and written campaign materials must be filed with the Board of Elections and cannot be distributed without the prior approval of the Board of Elections. Printed campaign materials must bevisibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and Approved by the Board of Elections before any material is posted or distributed.

I. In the case of yard signs or similar objects, the office of Student Involvement must approve of the content, and the University Grounds Department must approve the location of the posting when applicable. A color photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.

J. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.

K. No campaign material shall be allowed where it may physically deface or destroy property, such as posted materials, stickers or any other form of self-adhesive materials, buttons, and any other material deemed potentially destructive by the Board of Elections. Adhesives must be approved by the Board of Elections prior to use. In questions of defacement or removability, a candidate or designee's successive demonstrations of removability in all instances shall be sufficient.

L. Any damages sustained by property, University or otherwise, shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate(s). Damages may include excessive litter of campaign materials as determined by the Board of Elections, and the individuals in violation shall be held liable for any damages caused which require professional repair.

M. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I) for the purposes of campaigning such as posters or other written work are prohibited, especially if they are used to defame or otherwise attack any of the candidates running. The Board of Elections shall decide questions regarding inappropriate usage of physical and written campaign usage which includes personal attacks, defamation, or libel of any candidates in the election, whether it's tied to A.I or not.

Section 3
Electronic Campaigning

A. Electronic campaigning shall be defined as any form of non-verbal campaigning accessible using electronic devices, such as social media platforms, emails, or instant messaging.

B. Virtual campaign materials shall follow the same procedures of approval as the physical and written campaign materials.

C. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I) for the purposes of campaigning such as videos and posters are prohibited, especially if they are used to defame or otherwise attack any of the candidates running. The Board of Elections shall decide questions on appropriate electronic platforms. Inappropriate usage of electronic campaign usage that the Board of Elections shall decide includes personal attacks, defamation, or libel of any candidates in the election, whether it's tied to A.I or not.

Section 4
Verbal Campaigning

A. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.
B. The Board of Elections shall decide questions regarding inappropriate usage of verbal campaigns and other violations.
C. Candidates are not permitted to open ballot links for voters, nor can they remain present when they cast their ballot.

Section 5
Campaign Personnel

A. Campaign personnel shall be defined as any individual or organization actively working to further the campaign with or without the express consent of the candidate(s).
B. Candidates must disclose the involvement of active personnel in campaign efforts, such as a campaign manager or team, to the Board of Elections.
C. Failure to submit updated Campaign personnel shall be subjected to sanctions by the Board of Elections,
D. Candidates are responsible for the behavior and actions of personnel and are responsible for ensuring an appropriate and respectful campaign.

Section 6
Violations

A. All candidates in violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws are automatically subject to the sanctions and punishments contained therein. They may also be sanctioned or punished up toand including disqualification from the election.
B. All campaign regulations shall apply to all candidates, including write-in candidates. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the Board of Elections shall be disqualified from election to office and from holding office.

ARTICLE V
SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

Section 1
Warnings

A. A warning is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a lighter penalty. All warnings must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
B. Warnings may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate's behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such

actions.

C. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any warning(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the warning(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written warning(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been warned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original warning(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional warnings as soon as possible.

D. A candidate may receive up to three (3) warnings before it becomes a sanction. If a candidate receives a second warning for the same type of violation, it is immediately eligible to be a sanction upon approval from the Board of Elections.

E. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are warnable offenses:

1. Minor ethical violations
2. Improper posting campaign material
3. Minor violation of any university policy
4. Dissemination of campaign material(s) that directly link to methods of voting.
5. Inappropriate usage of electronic platforms by candidate(s) or ticket(s).
6. Failure to allow the Election Commissioner to follow, subscribe, etc. any social media accounts used for the purpose of campaigning.
7. Failure to follow tabling procedure in Residence Halls.
8. Issues connecting to endorsements.

F. Prior to Election Day

1. No warning issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.
2. Whenever a warning is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the warning in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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 as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body.
3. All campaign material stamped by the Student Involvement office and displayed in a manner that violates University Posting Policy may be removed by the Board of Elections.
4. Unstamped posted material will be confiscated by the Board of Elections and kept on file. In the event of an inordinate amount, as determined by the Board, of material in violation of these regulations is collected, the candidate(s) involved will be required to remove all of their posted material campus-wide for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but no more than forty-eighty (48) hours. The candidate(s) involved will be granted four (4) hours after notification of the warning in which to comply.
5. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to warning by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue warnings.

G. Warnings on Election Day

1. On the day(s) of an election, no warning issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall cover more than one (1) building or location.
2. Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to accruing two (2) warnings for each offense by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, the Board of Elections is required to issue warnings.

Section 1
Standards of Sanctions and Disqualification

The Board of Elections are to follow these standards when it comes to decision of what type of sanction to levy a candidate or enact disqualifications.

A. Automatic disqualifications shall be handled by the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner shall notify the candidate in writing, per SGA Bylaws stipulations. The Election Commissioner must inform the Board of Elections of the disqualification and the rationale in writing.

B. Considerations of sanctions, including disqualifications, shall be considered by the entire Election Commission. To approve of any sanction, including the disqualification of a candidate or ticket, the merits must be met or reasoned with and approved by at least three (3) members of the Board of Election. If there is an absentee vote or non-attendance of one Board member that creates a tie, the Election Commissioner shall have the tie-breaking vote. If a candidate or ticket is voted to be sanctioned or disqualified, the Board shall inform the candidate or ticket and the rationale in writing per SGA Bylaw stipulations.

C. When determining the specific category of sanctions, the Board of Election must decide on the merits of these following standards:
   1. History of past violations from the candidate, their ticket, or campaign personnel.
   2. Degree of severity of past violations
   3. Impact on the integrity or operations of the SGA Elections or greater SGA operations.
   4. Does the actions of candidate seem to be indicative of the qualities of the position that they are running for.
   5. Remarks levied against the NIU community or SGA officials, connected or not connected to the SGA elections.
   6. Precedent of prior rulings, Judicial Board decisions, or past actions of the Board of Elections. Removal of SGA officials or Senators, through Senate or termination, when in office can serve as precedent.

D. When it comes to vagueness of actions or weighing any decision, especially when it comes to qualities of the position, the Board of Elections shall consider some points. Those points being the nature and connection of the violation for the office they are running. Some points of reference include but not limited to:
   1. Financial misreporting or fraud to a person running as Treasurer
   2. A candidate who engages in vandalism, bullying or cyberbullying for any position.
   3. A candidate misrepresenting, misappropriate, ignoring, or making comments against the values they presented or the constituency they are running for such as unrepresented student populations.
   4. Amount of
   5. Number of complaints raised by other candidates, students, or administration about a particular candidate and their conduct.

E. The Board of Elections cannot utilize organizational affiliation, personal relationships or past misgivings of a candidate, nor the message and conduct of their campaign to disqualify or impose absurd sanctions on a candidate, staff, or ticket. It must be passed on the merit of actions that a candidate did. If a member of the Board of Elections cannot impartially decide the case, they shall allow the alternative Board of Election members to decide the case for them. The alternative Board of Election member will return to alternative status after stepping in and is not eligible for the Board of Elections stipend.

F. Any sanction applied to a ticket impact all the candidates on the ticket regardless of if they participated or had knowledge of the incident. Any sanction implied to the campaign staff or members for a candidate shall also apply to the candidate, and if applicable their ticket, regardless of if they participle or have knowledge of the incident. A candidate may choose to break away from the ticket only prior to Election Day but cannot be added back. A candidate may not break away from the ticket once a violation was reported or under consideration by the Board of Election.

G. The Board of Election must establish a system where candidates, tickets, organizations, voters, and NIU administration can report unethical conduct or violations of SGA election policies. Although the exact nature is dependent on the Election Commission, the following basics are universal:
   1. There shall be physical and digital forms and locations where these reports can be filled out and submitted to the Board of Elections
   2. The forms, especially a digital version, shall be easily accessible and be a part of the materials sent out by the Board of Elections
   3. Any physical poll worker can accept a report and immediately submit the information to the Board of

Election via any means necessary.
4. The system must be put in place prior to candidate meetings and candidate applications being open.
5. The reporting form must be active the first day that candidate meetings/applications are open and close twelve (12) hours after the polls have closed.

Section 2
Sanctions

A sanction is defined as a penalty imposed on a person for actual or probable violations of the election procedures, SGA policies, or university policies. Sanctions can be applied to candidates, campaign personnel, tickets, or organizations. Sanctions can also be levied against candidates even if they have no specific knowledge.

A. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any sanction(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the sanction(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written sanction(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been sanctioned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original sanction(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional sanctions as soon as possible.
   1. Whenever a sanction is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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 as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body. This include applicable news organizations.

B. The Board of Elections can levy different types of sanctions to individual(s), ticket(s), or organization(s). The Board of Elections must decide based on the Standards section found within the SGA Bylaws – Election Policy.
   1. Censure - Formal written reprimand for violation or probable violation where they are ordered to cease immediately the violation and for committing future actions.
   2. Restriction – Limitation or narrow ban on a specific type of campaign activities, involvement of person(s) or organizations(s), whether connected or not to the candidate.
   3. Referral – Refer the matter to a different disciplinary body for remedy the certain violation, including but not limited to, Code of Conduct, Office of Civil Rights, or the NIU Police Department.
   4. Suspension – Ban on all campaign activities that can be indefinite or for a fixed time.
   5. Disqualification – The candidate or ticket can no longer appear on the ballot and cease campaign activity, whether against or even for a different candidate or ticket. If voting has begun, the votes towards the candidate shall not count.
   6. Invalidation – Depending on circumstances the election for the entire election cycle, or specific position, can be invalidated which shall result in a special election being called.

C. This is not an exhaustive list of offenses that can warrant any category of sanction, but some violations include:
   1. Campaigning in locations forbidden by the SGA Bylaws
   2. Materials, written, digital, or otherwise not approved by either the Board of Elections or Student Involvement as set by the SGA Bylaws.
   3. Disruption of classes or campaigning of any time in classrooms
   4. Failure to submit or complete campaign materials or outstanding documentation required by the Board of Election prior to the deadline set by the Board.
   5. Continued or additional violations or different combination of sanction types.
   6. Breaches of the Student Code of Conduct or Universirt polices
   7. Indictment or conviction of violations of municipal or local laws
   8. Failure to submit accurate campaign personnel forms or misrepresenting, omitting, or concealing

information or personnel on submitted documentation, regardless of if it was knowledge or not.

9. Damage to NIU property
10. Door-to-door solicitation in residence halls.

D. There shall be no difference in sanction types prior to or on Election Day. When Board of Election meets on Election Days they shall review any reports, claims, or issues or potential violations and decide accordingly. Sanction carries the same penalty and standard regardless of if the infraction occurred prior to or on Election Day.

~~A. A sanction is defined as a guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a penalty. All sanctions must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.~~

~~B. Sanctions may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate's behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.~~

~~C. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any sanction(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the sanction(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written sanction(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been sanctioned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original sanction(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional sanctions as soon as possible.~~

~~D. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are sanctionable offenses:~~

~~1. Warnings from three (3) separate incidents, or two (2) warnings of the same incident. This is a compounding effect.~~
~~2. Violation of previous sanctions or warnings~~
~~3. Severe breaches of ethical conduct~~
~~4. Campaigning in any forbidden location outlined in the SGA Bylaws.~~
~~5. Disruption of any class~~
~~6. Failure to submit accurate campaign personnel forms.~~
~~7. Severe violation of any university policy or minor violations of federal, state, county, or municipality laws~~
~~8. A candidate(s) selected observer's disruption of tabulation procedure.~~
~~9. Failure to confirm that the candidate(s) or ticket(s) have not spent or received any goods or services.~~
~~10. Cause of damages sustained by property by campaign materials.~~
~~11. Door to door solicitation of votes in residence halls.~~

~~E. Prior to Election Day~~

~~1. No sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than forty-eight (48) hours and/or cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.~~
~~2. Whenever a sanction is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. 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 as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body.~~
~~3. Candidate(s) found to be acting in variance with campaign regulations as described in the Bylaws shall be subject to the following actions:~~
~~i. For the first offense, the Board of Elections shall forbid the candidate(s) from campaigning in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours. For each additional offense, the candidate~~

~~may be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) hours but not more than seventy-two (72) hours.~~

4. ~~Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to sanction by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue sanctions.~~

~~F. Sanctions on Election Day~~

1. ~~On the day(s) of an election, no sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than four (4) hours and/or cover more than one (1) building or location. The penalty for multiple sanctions may accumulate a series of sanctions that may last beyond the time limits indicated in this paragraph or cover multiple locations.~~
2. ~~No campaigning will be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of a ny voting station on Election Day(s). This shall include any physical, written, or verbal campaigning. No electronic campaigning shall be allowed that allows a campaign to define a set area, including, but not limited to, a flyer that advocates for a candidate or their campaign within 100 feet of a voting station.~~
   i. ~~Candidates and/or their workers who violate this regulation may not be allowed to distribute literature in the vicinity of the building that contains the voting station where the violation occurred for the remainder of the election.~~
   ii. ~~For any further violation of this regulation after the first, the candidate and/or their workers shall not be allowed to distribute literature anywhere on campus for the remainder of the election.~~
   iii. ~~No candidate shall be sanctioned for a violation of this section unless it is shown by a substantial weight of the evidence that the candidate or someone working on behalf of the candidate was the violator. The candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this section simply because someone possessed their campaign material inside of a voting place.~~
3. ~~Bulletin boards on Huskie Line Buses may be used for posting campaign material.~~

Section 3
Disqualifications

If a candidate is disqualified prior to the election, their name shall be removed from the ballot and official election materials. Candidates, SGA officials, and relevant news information must be informed of the decision. If the candidate is disqualified during or after the election, the votes for the candidate shall be invalidated, be disqualified for any special or run-off elections, and be unable to assume office. Candidates, SGA officials, and relevant news information must be informed of the decision.

A. The following offenses, although not an exhaustive list, shall constitute automatic disqualification:
   1. Any indictment for alleged, or convicted of, violations of federal or state law.
   2. An open Student Code of Conduct case while the election is taking place.
   3. Tampering, destroying, or hacking voter stations, physical ballots, or digital ballots.
   4. Hacking Student Government Association systems, including items not connected to the SGA elections.
   5. Interfering with SGA Senate meeting or conduct of the Student Government Association.
   6. Any fraud relating to the election,
   7. Harassment, intimidation, outright or implied threats of SGA officials, Election Commission and polling worker staff, NIU students, other candidates in the election regardless of specific branch or position, or voters.
   8. Accruing expenditure exceeding a total of $2500.
   9. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the Election Commissioner
   10. A candidate(s) or ticket(s) who is found to have falsified or omitted any Financial Disclosures.
   11. Interfering with another candidate's campaign.

Section 4 ~~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 aftertwo (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: The Election Review Panel shall consist of the Chairperson of the Judicial Board and the two (2) Neutral members to automatically review all disqualifications of candidates or their tickets once the Board of Elections informs all SGA officials per SGA Bylaws. The SGA President and Speaker of the Senate must inform the Election Review Panel officials if the Election Commission does not inform them of the disqualification. ~~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~~ cannot serve to fill any vacancy or have any decision regardless of they are neutral or election candidacy status.
   2. The Panel will review the disqualification and the rationale to determine if there were no violations or gross negligence, or the conduct of the members involved in the decision making. The Panel must examine if at least two (2) of the conditions were met, (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 Panell shall not substitute its own judgement for the Board of Election solely because it would arrive at a different conclusion.
   3. If the Panel finds the disqualification was unfound the Panel has latitude in remedying the affect to the candidate such as reinstatement to the ballot, calling for a new election to the position or cycle, or recommending removal of the members involved. If the Panel determines constitutional breach by members of the Election Commission they shall refer the matter to the SGA Senate a resolution for removal, the Judicial Board as a petition, or have greater oversight over the Election Commission.
   4. If a candidate submits an appeal for disqualification the Panel shall not consider the petition and only base their judgment on their automatic review.
   5. The Election Panel can review sanction appeals only if there is potential evidence for at least one violation of the standards mentioned above. The Panel must have two (2) or unanimous votes to accept the appeal to proceed.
   6. To reverse, modify any disqualification or sanction, they shall abide by Robert's Rules of Order or applicable statue voting procedures for bodies of three.
   ~~7. The Panel may 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 Panell shall not substitute its own judgement for the Board of Election solely because it would arrive at a different conclusion.

8. 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.
9. The Panel has latitude in remedying any ramifications caused by Board of Elections or Election Commissioner if the standards described above are met.
10. If the Panel finds that the Election Commission rendered the disqualification poorly they shall refer the case to the entire Judical Board to prosecute the indidiau
11. Election Review Panel decisions are final and cannot be appealed to the Judicial Board or anywhere else.
12. 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.
13. 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.

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

Section 4
Disqualifications

B. 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 allactions 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 hearall cases and issue in writing all sanctions and/or punishments it deems necessary prior to reporting tabulated votes.
C. 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.
D. 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.
E. 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.
F. 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.~~

ARTICLE VI
ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

Section 1
Election Type

The Election Commissioner shall decide the modality that the SGA Elections will be prior to the announcement of candidate meetings. Hybrid in person and digital campaign methods shall be permissible regardless of modality type, subject to emergency situations.

A. There are three modalities that the SGA Elections can occur:
   1. In Person: Votes can only be cast their vote at physical voting stations, and any digital ballot is prohibited.
   2. Hybrid: Voters can use both physical voting stations and digital ballots to cast their vote.
   3. Digital: Voters can only cast their vote using a digital ballot. Physical voting stations are prohibited.
B. The SGA Senate shall be empowered to set or change the modality of SGA elections if the Election Commissioner is unable to for any reason. It shall be set or altered by a 2/3 majority vote of an introduced resolution.

Section 2 ~~1~~
Voter Eligibility

A. Voter eligibility for any student wishing to vote must have an official Z-ID number and password on file withNorthern Illinois University and/or whatever else shall be determined by the Board of Elections to prove student registration to have access to the online ballot. The stated criteria for valid ballots shall be clearly posted at all voting stations as well as the online ballot form. All disputes or questions concerning voter eligibility shall be directed to the Board of Elections.
B. Any eligible student wishing to vote must simply access a voting station or an internetcapable device to access their ballot.

Section 3 ~~2~~
Voting Stations

When Board of Elections, or the Senate, set the modality of the SGA Election to in person or hybrid election, voting stations must be established. The Election Commission shall immediately work with applicable personnel at desired locations for voting stations to prepare adequality prior to Election Day for regular, run-off, or special elections.

~~A. The Board of Elections may choose to set up voting stations on campus.~~
B. On the morning of each Election Day, the Board shall travel to each voting station. The Board shall ensure that all campaign materials and persons are removed from the voting station. The Board shall also ensure thatall proper procedures are followed for the duration of the day.
C. Voting stations shall consist of either a paper ballot with the necessary equipment provided to allow private secretive filling of the ballot free from interference of poll workers or others, or a digital link to the online ballot. The voter shall decide how to vote with the poll worker(s) and Board of Election staff assisting without influencing their decision on how to vote. The SGA shall also share this link on its website, social media, and/or any other applicable communication avenues.
~~D. Voting stations shall consist of a link to online voting so voters may use their own devices, and information about the election and candidates. The SGA shall also share this link on its website, social media, and/or any other applicable communication avenues.~~

E. On the days of elections, banners identifying the buildings labeled as voting stations are to be clearly displayed on the outside of the location and nearest to the voting area. These banners must be neutral and only advocate that an SGA-sponsored election is taking place inside. The Student Government Association logo must appear on all banners or signs displayed at the voting stations. All banners and signs will remain visible and displayed during the duration of the Election Day and will be removed at the end of the final voting day.
F. The voting stations shall be open ~~for three consecutive days~~ between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.
G. The Board of Elections shall provide the voting information at each voting station.
H. The Election Commissioner will be charged with the responsibility of poll workers amongst voting stations. One (1) poll worker will be assigned to each voting station at all timesduring the election. Candidates running in the election may not serve as poll workers.
    1. Voting stations are to remain open at all times during the hours designated herein unless closed for goodand sufficient cause by authority of the Election Commissioner.
    2. In the event a voting station is closed, written notice will be provided of the time the said voting stationwill reopen, if known, and of the location(s) of other voting stations where students may cast their votes. If at any time the volunteer cannot be present at a voting station, it shall be temporarily closed.
    3. In the case of either of the above instances, the Commissioner is required to file an official writtenreport stating the reasons for the temporary closure or impoundment within four (4) hours of its occurrence.
I. Any student may volunteer including SGA staff not running in the election cycle as a poll worker. The Board of Elections shall vet each poll worker and must sign in and sign out when their shift ends. Information
J. A voting station may be impounded at any time by authority of the Election Commissioner for good and sufficient cause.
K. Each voter shall be eligible to vote for up to, but not exceeding:
    1. One (1) Executive candidate for each office.
    2. Senate candidates running to represent their chosen constituencies, not to exceed the number of Senate seats as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B.
L. The name candidates list on their registration and petition documents shall appear in full form, and their given (first) name or contracted form of that name must appear on the petition preceding their surname. Candidates may use one name they most identify with, which does not have to match their legal name.

ARTICLE VII
TABULATION

Section 1
Tabulation Procedure

A. After the closing of the polls, the poll worker(s) shall wait for a member of the Board of Elections to arrive, identify themselves, and secure all elections materials and voting stations before leaving.
B. All ballots are to be counted at one location. Ballots are to be counted by the Board of Elections . Ballots may be counted by electronic means.
C. Any executive election candidate whose name appears on the ballot may designate one (1) person to observeany discussion of the validity of ballots. All candidates who shall campaign as a team may choose only one observer to represent the entire ticket. Candidates may not represent themselves during this process. The observer may not be a candidate for any other elected position. Any action by the candidate's designated observer that disrupts the counting of the ballots will be cause for the observer's removal and will constitute a campaign violation, which may subject the candidate to disqualification at any time. During the counting of ballots, those present shall be restricted to the Board, except for designated observers.
D. Copies of the voided, official ballot shall be given to the Board of Elections in the weeks prior to the first day

of elections for the purpose of inputting the ballot online. If changes are made to the official ballot after this time, copies shall immediately be made available to the Board of Elections .

Section 2
Valid and Invalid Votes and Ballots

A. Only the following votes shall count in the determination of winners and shall be considered valid votes for the office(s) so affected. All valid votes on the same ballot for other offices shall be counted.
   1. A vote for a registered non-disqualified write-in candidate, with the reasonably correct, as decided by a majority vote of the BOE when one member is unable to match the name to a write-in candidate, spelling of the candidate's name.
   2. A vote for a non-disqualified candidate listed on the ballot, even if written in.

B. The following votes shall not count in the determination of winners and shall be considered invalid votes for the office(s) so affected.
   1. Votes for disqualified candidate(s).
   2. Votes for unqualified candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office.
   3. Votes for unregistered write-in candidate(s) unless they enable a candidate to reach the required number of signatures needed for the office.
   4. Votes for disqualified write-in candidate(s).
   5. Votes for obscene write-in candidate(s).

C. Student Government Association elections ballots shall allow for the submission of an incomplete ballot. An incomplete ballot has at least one candidate selection or write-in, but not all vote choice options have been exhausted.

Section 3
Invalid Elections

A. Other than votes and ballots for disqualified candidates who appeared on the ballot, if the total number of invalid ballots in any election is greater than ten (10) percent of the total ballots cast in that election, the entire election will be ruled invalid. Ballots cast for a disqualified candidate will be disregarded for purposes of this Section and will not count as either valid or invalid ballots.

B. An invalidated election must be re-run as a special election within one week of the invalidation.

C. Upon completion of the counting of the ballots, the Board of Elections shall make a reasonable attempt to contact all candidates, or their official representatives as is feasible to locate at that time and notify them of the results prior to releasing the total to the public.

D. All returns shall immediately be made open to the public when the ballots have been completely tabulated.

E. All ballots and petitions must be accounted for and saved by the Board of Elections for sixty (60) days. Following that time, they shall be destroyed. The Board of Elections shall issue a report of the results tothe Senate and the President of the SGA.

Section 4
Determination of Winners

A. The candidate receiving a majority of all legitimate and valid votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then the votes will be allocated as determined by the ranked for those candidates until one candidate received a majority. If a tie still persists then a run-off election for the remaining two candidates shall be held.

B. The winners of the Senate seat races shall be decided by the following.

1. The Senate candidate(s) with the most votes within the race for their constituency, as determined by ranked choice voting rules, shall be the winners of those seats. With the number of open seats being determined by the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B.
2. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.

C. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
D. The Board of Elections may release the election results to the public as early as the last day of the election following tabulation if there are no pending appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court or write in candidates needing to be validated.

Section 5
Runoff Election

A. In the event the initial election results in a tie, a runoff election shall be held. The person with the most votes in a runoff election shall be considered the winner. If a tie occurs, then a new runoff election shall be held.
B. The one-day runoff election shall be held at most a week following the start of the initial election on a weekday.
C. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

Section 6
Special Election

A. In the event the initial election did not produce a winner, or the number of Senators fail to meet Thirty-Three Percent (33%) of the Available Seats, a special election shall be held.
B. The one-day special election shall be held on the third Wednesday of April.
    1. This should not be confused with Quorum. As a majority of members of the Senate shall constitute a quorum. The number of members shall be determined by the number of Senate seats currently filled.
C. Refer to Article VI, pertaining to Election Procedures, for information on how to run the election.

ARTICLE VIII
EXPENDITURE REPORTING

Section 1
Requirement to Disclose

A. Candidates shall be required to disclose of any and all campaign expenditures/contributions that exceed a total of $25 for candidates for Senate and a total of $50 for candidates for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. A ticket has the same campaign disclosure procedures and limits asa single candidate. All candidates who exceed the threshold shall be required to keep a record of all campaign expenditures and provide proof of those expenditures. This report can come from a ticket and/or a candidate and shall be turned in to the Board of Elections before the start of the election.
B. Financial disclosure reports must include at minimum the name of the contributing organization or individual and the amount contributed. This includes personal contributions.
C. All candidates shall keep records of all donated goods and services along with the fair market value of those services that shall include as the minimum requirements, name of contributing organization or individual,

type of donated goods and services, and value of donated goods and services.

D. The spending limit for all campaign expenditures shall be no more than the amount of $2,500.

E. Failure to report expenditures shall be subjected to sanctions by the Board of Elections .

Section 2
Financial Disclosures

A. The method and format of all financial disclosure shall be at the discretion of the Board of Elections with the approval of the Student Government Association Treasurer. If the Treasurer is a candidate in the same election, then the Deputy Treasurer will be required to approve these disclosures. If the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer are both candidates themselves, then the Board of Elections will be required to approve these disclosures.

B. All candidates shall disclose each expense and/or donation to the Board of Elections biweekly.

C. A final financial report shall be submitted by the open of polls on the first date of polling, and it shall includea full account of all campaign expenses, a full disclosure of all donated funds, services and materials, and copies of all receipts and financial records associated with the campaign.

D. Any candidate, or ticket, who is found to have falsified or omitted any information relating to this article shall be immediately disqualified for all offices in which the candidate, or ticket, are a candidate(s) for.

Section 3
Public Reporting

A. The Election Commissioner, with the guidance of the Student Government Association Treasurer, shall make the financial records of each campaign public before any election results are announced.

B. The Election Commissioner shall create a final financial report of all campaigns that shall be documented by the Student Government Association Parliamentarian for public review. The report shall include the total amount of election expenses from the ticket and/or candidate, a financial report of each ticket and/or candidate, and arecord of any financial violations.

ARTICLE V
SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

Section 3
Filing an Appeal to the Board

E. 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.

F. 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 aftertwo (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.

G. 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 Panell 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.

Section 4
Disqualifications

G. 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 allactions 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 hearall cases and issue in writing all sanctions and/or punishments it deems necessary prior to reporting tabulated votes.

H. 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).

I. 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.

J. 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.

K. 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 **First Reading**
Agenda Item: B Friday, October 16th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez, Rules & Procedures Committee
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Rules & Procedures Committee

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58013
Fifty–Eight Session

Summary: A bill to clarify and mandate an SGA Constitution test

Legislation:
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is the principal organization at Northern Illinois University in charge of student governance; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the officials elected to the Student Government Association are knowledgeable in the operations, duties, and requirements of the organization they are entrusted to lead; and

WHEREAS, it is why past SGA administrations passed a governing documents test to all SGA leaderships positions after they take office, yet this provision is forgotten and had no enforcement mechanism as it currently stands; and

WHEREAS, conversations with the new Election Commissioner and the President yielded to discussions on a stronger SGA Constitution test; and

WHEREAS, the Rules & Procedures Committee reviewed the suggestion and determined to expand the idea and create it as a full separate bill, since it was a part of the SGA Board of Elections revisions bill; and

WHEREAS, the intention of the test is to ensure that the leaders of Student Government Association are knowledgeable of the organization they lead and specific bylaw requirements need to be added to ensure 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 Constitution and SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE V
CANIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Section 1
Qualifications for Office

A. To hold any elected or appointed position in the SGA, a student 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 2.5 during tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University. This shall apply to all officers, senators, and representatives of the SGA. In addition, to hold the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or any other paid SGA position, qualifications for office must be met by a candidate/elected individual prior to taking office but need not necessarily be met atthe time of candidacy. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet all qualifications for office bythe time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

B. To hold any elected or appointed paid position in the SGA, a student may not hold any executive board position of any type in any type of student organization. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet this provision for office by the time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws. This provision shall only apply to the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Speaker.

C. Those seeking the office of Student trustee must have met minimum State of Illinois requirements for the position by the time of taking office. Each year the Board of Elections chairperson is advised to review the most current requirements before elections. Current requirements are as follows: "The student member must be a resident of this State, must have and maintain a grade point average that is equivalent to at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and must be a full-time student enrolled at all times during their term of office except for that part of the term which follows the completion of the last full regular semester of the succeeding academic year at the university."

D. By assuming office, students agree to abide by the Northern Illinois University Student Code of Conduct.

E. All leadership positions within the Student Government Association are expected to be knowledgeable in all aspects of the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, Senate Operating Manual, Robert's Rules of Order and any other relevant documents. This shall include all elected and appointed positions within the SGA. An SGA Constitution test shall be implemented to govern and test knowledge of everyone within the Student Government Association.

    1. See details of the SGA Constitution test within the Appendix of the SGA Bylaws

~~F. All Leadership Positions within the Student Government Association are expected to be knowledgeable on all parts of the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, Operating Manual, and Robert's Rules of Order. Leadership positions consist of the entirety of the Executive Branch, the Office of the Speaker, Senate Chairpersons, and Senate Leadership Positions. To ensure knowledge and understanding, a test on the governing documents shall be administered to all appointed positions within a week of appointment. A score of 67% or higher must be achieved to maintain the appointed position. If this percentage is not achieved, a second test can be taken within two (2) business days of the original test and must be passed with a 75% or higher. Elected positions, namely the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Student Trustee, and the Speaker of the Senate are expected to achieve a minimum of 75% on the test within the first two weeks of taking office.~~

APPENDIX D
SGA Constitution Test

A. The SGA Constitution test shall be administered as an in-person paper test only. Digital versions are permissible if the Student Government Association must operate remotely. A score of 75% or higher must be achieved. If a person fails, they will have an opportunity of taking the exam one more time and must pass with a score of 80% or higher. Failure to complete the test will result in a prohibition from the ballot, though not as a write-in candidate, or removal of office from their supervisor. Relevant accommodations for testing are to be accepted if the Board of Elections or relevant proctor is notified and documentation submitted.

B. SGA Constitution Test specifics.

1. There shall be a pool of one hundred (100) questions approved by the SGA Senate in the prior session and incorporated within the Senate Operating Manual for the next session. These questions cannot be altered by any amendment to the Senate Operating Manual or SGA Bylaws until the exam is taken by the new administration.
2. There shall be thirty (30) questions pertaining to the operations and committees of the Senate.
3. There shall be twenty (20) questions pertaining to the Executive branch such as President's Cabinet.
4. There shall be ten (10) questions pertaining to Judicial Board
5. There shall be ten (10) questions pertaining to Election Policy
6. There shall be ten (10) questions pertaining to Student Organization Policy
7. There shall be ten (10) questions pertaining to Finance Policy
8. There shall be five (5) questions pertaining to the Speaker of the Senate
9. There shall be five (5) questions pertaining to the SGA President.
10. There shall be five (5) questions pertaining to the Treasurer
11. There shall be five (5) questions pertaining to the Student Trustee.

C. SGA Constitution Test Approval

1. The Office of the Speaker in conjunction with the President must write the questions for the exam and be submitted to the Senate as a resolution to amend the Senate Operating Manual prior to the Election Commission being operational. Questions previously approved, regardless of if a resolution fails or the Speaker and President determine that there shall be no changes, can be used so long as answers or questions are updated if those relevant sections of the governing documents have been revised.
2. The questions shall appear on the Senate Operating Manual, but the answers are to be kept by the Speaker of the Senate and the President. They cannot be shared.
3. The questions shall be written to allow them to be utilized as either true or false questions or multiple choice. The examiner shall choose which question and type to use.

D. SGA Elections

1. Senatorial candidates shall take an exam of fifteen (15) questions from the pool of thirty (30) Senate-related questions.
2. Presidential candidates shall take an exam of fifty (50) questions from the entire one hundred (100) pool of questions.
3. Vice Presidential candidates shall take an exam of twenty-fifty (25) questions from the pool of fifty (50) questions composed of Senate, Student Organization Policy, and Finance Policy.
4. Treasurer candidates shall take an exam of twenty-fifty (25) questions from the pool of fifty-five (55) questions composed of Senate, Student Organization Policy, Finance Policy, and Treasurer.
5. Student Trustee candidates shall take an exam of twenty-fifty (25) questions from the pool of fifty-five (55) questions composed of Senate, Executive Board, and the Student Trustee specifics.
6. The Election Commission shall provide a study guide to all candidates. The Election Commission shall proctor the exam. Depending on circumstances, the Board of Elections can approve an online test on an individual basis.

E. Senate Vacancies

1. The Speaker of the Senate shall administer the test prior to a candidate's advancement to the Senate. They shall take the same test as Senatorial candidates from the prior SGA Election.

F. Appointments

1. The respective supervisor, the Speaker of the President, shall give their appointees the SGA Constitution test within two (2) weeks of assuming office. Executive Board appoints will take the same pool of questions given to the Vice President. Office of the Speaker appointments will take the same pool of questions given to the Speaker but only have twenty-five (25) questions.
2. Judicial Board appointments shall take the same exam given to the President and Speaker.

G. Any SGA official who is appointed or otherwise obtains a new position within the SGA compared to what

they were originally elected or appointed to do; they shall take a new test related to the position even if they took a different test related to their original position. This applies to President Cabinet, Deputy Treasurer, Election Commissioner, Judicial Board, or Office of the Speaker appointments and Senate or Presidential Line of Succession.

H. Candidates and those in power shall take the test on their first candidacy or appearance in SGA. They shall retake the test every other year for as long as they stay in SGA. Candidates or those who have nonconsecutive stays in SGA, regardless of position or branch served, shall take the test. The Senate shall be empowered to pass a resolution via simple majority to require any officer of the SGA to retake the test regardless of if they need to or not.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: C Friday, October 16th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 58014
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A bill to codify formal relations in SGA Governing Documents

Legislation:
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA), established in1968 under the name Student Association (SA) and renamed in 2019, serves as the official student representation of Northern Illinois University based in DeKalb, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, then Deputy Speaker Nathan Gonzalez of the 56th Session started the Intercollegiate Panel which was an informal meeting of different student government officials in the State of Illinois to share ideas and open the door for collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the intention was a spiritual successor to the Illinois Student Association of the late 20th Century that operated more as a lobbying force, than general collaboration and meetings for member SGA's in the State of Illinois that later became defunct due to issues and impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Intercollegiate Panel fizzed by the end of the 56th Session and was overlooked by then newly elected Speaker Nathan Gonzalez throughout the 57th Session as attention shifted to prioritizing internal operations, Speaker Gonzalez revived the Panel in his second term, the current 58th Session; and

WHEREAS, the revival has opened a new chapter of communicating with other student governments in the State of Illinois with the intention of creating something that will last longer compared to past efforts; and

WHEREAS, SR58013 introduced by the SGA Senate establishes an active working relationship with the Student Government Association of Illinois State University; and

WHEREAS, to welcome this new era of collaboration and prepare for more formal relationships, these efforts need to be codified in the SGA Constitution and SGA Bylaws; 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 SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

SGA Constitution

ARTICLE III. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 1. Duties of the President of the Student Government Association

The President of the Student Government Association shall be empowered to:

A. Item-veto bills of the Senate and its committees.

B. Allocate funds as prescribed in the Bylaws, in the absence of the Senate.

C. Call meetings of the Student Body-at-Large at the request of the Senate, or at any time the President shall deem it of sufficient urgency. The President shall preside over all meetings which are called by them.

D. Assist the Vice President or the Treasurer in any matter relating to the SGA.

E. Act as chief spokesperson and liaison for the SGA in all matters inside and outside of the University community and with the administration.

F. Represent the SGA in the negotiations of the terms of its contracts, which are subject to the approval of the Senate. The President shall bestow SGA honors and awards with Senate approval.

G. Direct all programs of the SGA.

H. Appoint all Justices of the Judicial Branch. All such appointments must be approved by the Senate and may not be dismissed by the President.

I. Appoint such staff and commissions as shall be necessary to carry out the duties of the office. Those appointed to hold salaried positions must be approved by the Senate prior to taking office. All those appointed under this subsection may be dismissed by the Senate under the removal process described in this Constitution or may be dismissed at any time by the President.

J. Appoint members of the SGA and the NIU Student body to university committees including but not limited to: the University Council and its committees, the Athletic Board, the Campus Parking Committee, the Campus Security and Environmental Quality Committee, the Student Conduct Advisory Board, the Computing Facilities Advisory Committee, the Library Advisory Committee, the Northern Star Publications Board, the Parking Appeals Committee, the Student Conduct Board, and the Grievance Panel.

J. Delegate additional activities to unelected Executive Branch members in addition to the duties already outlined by the SGA bylaws.

K. Prepare the SGA budget and determine spending priorities of the SGA.

M. Serve on the University Council alongside the Speaker of the Senate.

N. Serve on the University Council Steering Committee alongside the Speaker of the Senate.

O. The President shall conduct at least one (1) comprehensive evaluation of all paid SGA executive branch staff members, other than the elected officers, each semester. Staff evaluations are to be conducted by the tenth (10th) week of each semester. The Evaluations shall include recommendations as to how to improve. The President must report the evaluation immediately to the Senate after it is completed. The Chief of Staff shall help the President in the evaluation process.

P. The President shall be able to issue Executive Orders that are only enforceable to members of the Executive Branch.

Q. The President, in conjunction with the Speaker of the Senate shall establish and maintain active working relationships with equivalent Student Government Associations of other higher education institutions for the betterment of all parties involved.

ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 4. The Speaker of the Senate

A. The Speaker of the Senate shall be confirmed by the Senate and serve a one (1) year term of office, and shall enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Senator, other than the right to vote. If the Speaker is also elected to the Senate, then the Speaker shall have the right to vote, only in the instance of a tie. A resolution calling for nominations shall take place no earlier than March 1st. Nominees will be coted on the following week on the same resolution. The nominee receiving the most votes shall become the Speaker. The Speaker's term begins and ends on May 5th. The Speaker shall be the spokesperson for the Senate.

B. The Speaker shall have the authority to send bill, resolutions, topics, or directives to any relevant committee for study; this shall not be interpreted to abridge the authority of the Senate to make decisions on resolutions or bills.

C. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to enforce all SGA rules within the Legislative Branch. The Speaker shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of the minutes of all Senate meetings, which shall include a record of the attendance of the members of the Senate, within five (5) calendar days of each meeting. The minutes and the record of attendance shall be presented to the Senate at the next regular meeting. The Speaker shall run meetings and deliver statements on behalf of the Senate.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to instruct all new senators of correct constitutional, bylaw, and parliamentary procedures. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to update all Senators on any procedure changes that will affect senators during their term as a senator.

E. The Speaker shall cause to be kept accurate records of Senate meetings, the Operating Rules of the Senate and all committees that report to the Senate. Upon their appointment as Speaker, it is the Speaker's responsibility to review and update the Senate

Operating Manual which will be brought forth to the Senate for approval during the first meeting of the new session. If the Senate rejects the new Senate Operating Manual, the Senate Operating Manual shall be sent to the Rules & Procedures Committee for further review and be brough back to the Senate in the following regularly scheduled meeting.

F. Appoint Senators to all Senate Committees and shall coordinate such committees as necessary. The Speaker shall have the ability to appoint Chairpersons and remove them with sufficient rationale. The Speaker has the responsibility to remove any Senator from a committee with adequate reasoning to ensure that the committee can fulfill their responsibilities effectively. The Speaker shall notify the chair of the committee of any removal as well as provide the reasoning for the removal.

G. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee. The Speaker has the authority to sit in on any Senate committee as a non-voting, ex-officio member. The Speaker has the power to join the committee with majority consent of the committee.

H. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the authority to call off a Senate meeting with sufficient rationale. However, the Speaker may not call off two consecutively scheduled senate meetings without the approval of a majority of the Senate. The Speaker's discretion at canceling the meeting will be put under review by the Senate for the following meeting. If the reasons for the Speaker calling off the meeting are deemed invalid, then the Senate is empowered to take action against them.

I. If the appropriate office (s)or officer(s) fails to amend the Constitution and Bylaws within twenty-one (21) days of passage, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker, who will update the Constitution and Bylaws within fourteen (14) days of the transfer.

J. The Speaker can further delegate rules, in writing and with reason, to members of the Office of the Speaker or Senate as desired.

K. The Speaker of the Senate, in conjunction with the President, shall establish and maintain active working relationships with equivalent Student Government Associations of other higher education institutions for the betterment of all parties involved.

Section 5. Definition of Bills, Statutes, Proposed Resolutions, and Resolutions.

All request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees shall take one of the following two forms.

A. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding appointing or removing a person from office, adoption or amendments to the Senate Operating Rules, punishment or expulsion of senators, establishment or dissolution of formal relationships with external equivalent Student Government Associations, and appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution. Any request submitted to the Senate or any of its committees to make a declaration of its will or opinion binding or non-binding, utilizing or not SGA funds, forcing any SGA official to act officially or not, and

affects the internal procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be considered a proposed resolution. Upon approval by the Senate the proposed resolution shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All proposed changes to the Senate Operating Rules shall be considered proposed resolutions and, if passed, shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Constitution may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a resolution. A proposed resolution can be voted on the meeting of its first reading.

B. [Continued..]

SGA Bylaws

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. The Committee shall ensure that the President and the Speaker of the Senate portray the best qualities of Northern Illinois University and the SGA as a united front, consistent in their messaging with meetings or otherwise working relationships, formal or informal, with other equivalent Student Government Associations.
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.

B. Committee on Diplomatic Affairs

1. The Committee shall be composed of the entire Rules & Procedure Committee and the Public Affairs Committee with the President as a member. The Committee shall be run by the SGA Parliamentarian. If the position is unfilled the SGA President shall chair the Committee.
2. The Committee shall receive referrals from the Rules & Procedure Committee

when the President and the Speaker are no longer united or consistent in messaging with external Student Government Associations.

3. The Committee shall take over being point of contact from the President and the Speaker with relations with external SGAs. The SGA Parliamentarian, o if vacant, the Director of Public Affairs shall be the point of contact. Otherwise, the committee can appoint an individual from the committee under the title of Ambassador.

4. The Committee can vote by 2/3 majority to appoint individuals to serve as ambassadors in any situation if there is seen to have a need. They shall also be removed via a 2/3 vote.

5. The Committee can recommend removal or disciplinary measures to the Senate or Judicial Board depending on

6. The Committee can convene at the request of either the Speaker or the President to coordinate large scale projects, study relationships, plan, or otherwise execute operations with external Student Government Association if aspects are unable to be done by either of the positions in their respective charges.

7. The Speaker of the Senate shall serve as Secretary. Unless appointed to serve as Ambassador all committee members, including the Chairperson, shall have a vote. Any other SGA official from the Legislative or Executive Branch, and Judicial Board can attend as a non-voting ex-officio member.

C. Committee on Organization Oversight

1. [Continued…]

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: D Friday, October 16th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 58013
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Parliamentarian

Legislation:
WHEREAS, Article II, §1.P.1 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states the Parliamentarian, "be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Sente and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote"; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez has appointed Senator Catherine Ademola to serve as Parliamentarian for the SGA Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ademola has indicated immense interest in learning more about SGA and serving the organization in a role that allows for closer cooperation between all branches of the SGA; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §1.A 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 Senator Catherine Ademola to serve as Parliamentarian for the 58th Session.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business **First Reading**
Agenda Item: E Friday, October 16th, 2026
Author: Speaker Gonzalez
Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, President Rodriguez

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 58014
Fifty–Eighth Session

Summary: A resolution to establish formal SGA relations

Legislation:
WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA), established in1968 under the name Student Association (SA) and renamed in 2019, serves as the official student representation of Northern Illinois University based in DeKalb, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association (SGA), established in 1923 as the Student Council and evolved into the SGA in 1993, and beginning 2007 serves as the official student representation of Illinois State University based in Bloomington, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, then Deputy Speaker Nathan Gonzalez of the 56th Session started the Intercollegiate Panel which was an informal meeting of different student government officials in the State of Illinois to share ideas and open the door for collaboration; and

WHEREAS, although the initiative fizzled out at the end of Deputy Speaker Gonzalez's term, it was revived during Gonzalez's second term as SGA Speaker of the Senate in this current 58th Session; and

WHEREAS, the revival has opened a new chapter with the intention of now establishing formal relations with other SGA, the first to embark being the Student Government Association of Illinois State University; and

WHEREAS, a bill will be proposed to amend the SGA Constitution and SGA Bylaws to codify provisions on maintaining relations with other SGA's; and

WHEREAS, in the meantime, the adoption of this resolution will constitute an amendment to the SGA Senate Operating Manual currently adopted by the 58th Session to acknowledge and bring into force this newfound era and relationship with the ISU SGA;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve of the following stipulations and articles:

RESOLVED, to the best of the Student Government Association's and the respective Legislative and Executive Branch leaders of the Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University Student Government Association ordain and establish formal relations; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, where there now exists an active working relationship between the Norther Illinois University Student Government Association and the Illinois State University Student Government Association with specific scope and extent up to their respective leadership; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, to approve the following sections into the 58th Session Senate Operating Manual;

Section 1 - Student Government Association Contact
The Northern Illinois University Student Government Association can enter and maintain active working relationships with other Student Government Association's and equivalent structures of other higher education institutions. Exact nature, degree, and scope of the working relationship is up to the leadership of both respective SGAs to the best of the abilities of the associations and the respective leaders.

Section 2 – Authorization of Relations

The SGA Speaker of the Senate of the Northern Illinois University shall be the primary point of contact, followed by the SGA President, in establishing, maintaining, and expanding active relationships with other Student Government Associations and their equivalence. Both the SGA Speaker and the SGA President shall represent the NIU Student Government Association in a united front and display utmost diplomatic behaviors and conduct. In the instance that the provision shall not be met, the Rules & Procedures Committee shall oversee communication or compliance between the SGA Speaker and the SGA President.

A resolution introduced and passed by the SGA Senate is required to establish formal working relationships or relations amongst other Student Government Association. However, the SGA Speaker and the SGA President can respond, initiate, or otherwise engage in communication with any representative of any other SGA or their equivalence at that specific higher education institution. Explicit collaboration or priorities requires the establishment of a formal working relationship.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez exercises discretion in formatting the above articles in the 58th Session Senate Operating Manual so long as the text is identical to this resolution.

This legislation is to ordered to take immediate effect