

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday October 15th, 2025 – 4:30 PM
Holmes Student Center – Sky Room
Public Streaming: <http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive>

Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an [Intent to Speak](#) form, no later than 11:59 pm, October 9th, 2025.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Senate Minutes 09.26.2025
 - B. Senate Minutes 10.03.2025
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
- VII. Speaker's Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
 - A. President Jones
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
 - A. Chief of Staff Johnson
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SB57006: A bill to revise the tier funding caps
 - B. SB57007: A bill to codify finance budget presentations attendance
 - C. SB57008: A bill to implement Event Support Fund
 - D. SR57011: A resolution to appoint a Director of Organization Development
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57009: A bill to clarify communication between Finance Committee and student organizations
 - B. SB57010: A bill to revise communications regarding student organizations
 - C. SR570015: A resolution to implement Discussion Senate Agenda Item Guidelines
 - D. SR570016: A resolution to appoint a Senator
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

Old Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 3, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57006

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise the tier funding caps

Legislation:

WHEREAS, SB57004 revised the Finance Policy of the SGA Bylaws but contained inaccurate numbers related to the tier funding caps;

WHEREAS, ensuring this change is corrected to prevent the SGA Finance Committee from accidentally lowering the amount student organizations can apply for the 2026-2027 academic year; and

WHEREAS, passing a separate bill is more effective than repealing SB57004 and repassing it with the corrective change or waiting for President Jones to issue a line veto; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 2

Finance Subcategories

- A. The annual budget shall consist of four (4) subcategories. The annual budget requests for the Student Government Association recognized organizations and certain university departments and offices shall be reviewed in each of these assigned categories as determined by the SGA Finance Committee. Funds allotted to each SGA-recognized organization will be allocated within funding levels for each subcategory. Each subcategory’s funding level will be set by the Finance Committee in the second meeting of the Spring semester.
- B. Any individual on the SGA Finance Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting Student Government Association funding. Furthermore, individuals currently serving or who have previously served in organizations requesting funding must abstain from voting and discussion and debate on the consideration of that organization’s budget request.
- C. The individual subcategories are as follows:
 1. Tier 1: Non-Funded Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not annually funded due to any reason. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$500.
 2. Tier 2: Competitive Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not sports clubs or sport organizations but attend/engage in competitions regardless of their affiliation with a university department. Organizations must have already been annually funded, engage in a minimum of three (3) yearly verifiable competitions and are not involved in activity involving

physical exertion and skill. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$5,000. ~~\$1,000.~~

3. Tier 3: Academic and Department Affiliated Organizations. These are defined as organizations affiliated with a specific academic interest or university department serving a larger section of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$2500.
4. Tier 4: Sponsored Student Organizations. These are defined as organizations with a focus that serves their specific membership and have no real responsibility to the rest of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$1,000 ~~\$500.~~

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

Old Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez, Treasurer Lazaric

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Treasurer Lazaric, Senator Robinson, Senator Kushimo

First Reading

Friday October 3, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57007

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to codify finance budget presentations attendance

Legislation:

WHEREAS, SR57007 called for SGA Finance Committee to enforce the budget training provision for the next fiscal year but required the committee to propose a codified system to track attendance; and

WHEREAS, after consultation with the Associate Director of Student Organizations & Leadership we have been assured that this format would work and is easily trackable for student organizations; and

WHEREAS, this system allows the student organizations to have their new Executive Board to be informed and knowledgeable of SGA financial policies and procedures and reduce chances of error or confusion;

WHEREAS, this follows precedent of some student governments in the State of Illinois such as DePaul University who combine reregistration with finance training for ease among everyone involved; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 1

Finance Committee Membership and Structure

- A. The Finance Committee shall be tasked with the oversight of all financial matters of the Student Government Association, including the allocation and oversight of Student Activity Fee money.
- B. The Finance Committee will consist of ten (10) voting members, seven (7) of whom are Senators, appointed at the discretion of the Speaker. The Speaker, Treasurer, and Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the remaining three (3) voting members. The chair of the committee shall have the power to appoint and remove previously appointed administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members, as they see fit.
- C. The SGA Treasurer shall serve as chair of the committee but shall only vote to break a tie. The SGA Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the vice-chair of the committee and preside over the committee in the absence of the SGA Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the secretary, who shall keep accurate records for the committee.
- D. The Finance Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 1. at least once every fourteen (14) days while the Senate is in session.

2. Review the annual budget recommendations for each of the budget subcategories and consolidate each subcategory budget recommendation into one omnibus funding bill to be introduced to the Senate no later than the second Senate meeting in April.
3. Assign SGA-recognized organizations and departments requesting funding to a specific finance subcategory for administrative purposes.
4. Review any expenditures and financial approvals within the Executive Branch, including Executive Allocations.
5. Introduce the fiscal policies and recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
6. Track and enforce budget training presentations attendance for student organizations
7. Review and approve Supplemental Funding requests.

ARTICLE III ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

Section 3 Mandatory Budget Training

The SGA Treasurer must host at least two mandatory budget meetings prior to the submission of budget proposals by student organizations. These meetings must be held no later than the end of March. Organizations requesting funding must have their President, Treasurer, and NIU Advisor attend at least one (1) of these meetings. Failure to attend these meetings shall automatically result in the organization or office losing eligibility to receive funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The SGA must announce budget meeting dates at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

1. Budget training shall be part of the student organization reregistration process, unless otherwise directed by a resolution proposed by the SGA Finance Committee and approved by the Senate.
2. Tracking will be maintained via NIU's student organization platform and a roster maintained by the SGA Finance Committee. This internal roster tracker will be a part of transition materials for the Speaker-elect and Treasurer-elect for each new administration.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 3, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57008

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to implement Event Support Fund

Legislation:

WHEREAS, SB57004 that was passed by the Senate included a provision that removed the Campus Security Fund as it was no longer used and did not have a firm foundation on how it could be utilized; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association has received information regarding a revamped Campus Security Fund called Event Support Fund that has seen submissions and serves to replace the old system; and

WHEREAS, this change codifies a newly established practice that Student Involvement has put out and ensures that our rules align with those of the university in a timely and quick manner to better serve and support SGA recognized student organizations; 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

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Section 3

Event Support Fund

The Event Support Fund, provided by the Student Government Association (SGA), helps student organizations cover costs for on-campus events. Organizations may request up to \$1,000 per event, though final approval and award amounts are determined by SGA.

- A. Eligible Expenses:
 - a. Event security
 - i. NIU Police Department support
 - b. NIU event staff specifically hired to support the event
 - c. Only for on-campus events
- B. Ineligible expenses:
 - a. Catering or food of any kind
 - b. Decorations
 - c. Apparel
 - d. Additional staffing not related to supporting the event
 - e. Off campus events

- C. Requests must be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the event. There shall be no reimbursement nor retractive back payment for costs already incurred or past events, or thereof.
- D. After the request has been submitted Student Government Association will review the request and provide notification via email if fully or partially approved or rejected.

Section 3-4

Rollover of Remaining Funds

Section 4 5

Rollover of Remaining Funds

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

Old Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 3, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57011

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve a Director of Organization Development

Legislation:

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

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

WHEREAS, President Ja’Kobe Jones has appointed Aaron Shaffer to serve as Director of Organization Development; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint Aaron Shaffer to serve as Director of Organization Development.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 15, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57009

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to clarify communications between Finance Committee and student organizations

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association, SGA, receives many communications from student organizations and their representatives, students or faculty, regarding financial decisions or finance questions in general; and

WHEREAS, there are guidelines for respectful communication between SGA and student organizations, but that is only found regarding supplemental funding; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association representatives are still students and must fulfil academic obligations which enables said representatives to maintain the GPA requirements but also fulfil other life obligations; and

WHEREAS, Student Involvement staff that assist SGA in financial matters also have responsibilities and obligations outside SGA that they are required to attend; and

WHEREAS, these provisions do not encourage SGA members to neglect their duties, responsibilities, or decrease communication with student organizations and any indication that they are shall be considered a dereliction of duty that the Speaker of the Senate or the SGA President may investigate further to determine any disciplinary actions based on which branch they pertain too; and

WHEREAS, this shall be one bill of two that will help to streamline communication between the Student Government Association and student organizations regarding finance discussion items for streamline purposes and mitigate confusion or miscommunication regarding SGA policies and decisions; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve the SGA Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 3

Finance Committee Communication

Continuously contacting individuals associated with the SGA Finance Committee, accounting department, or SGA as a whole privately via social media, private email, or in person without scheduling a meeting in regard to decisions, request, information, or all other matters related to or made by the SGA Finance Committee may be viewed as harassment which can result in suspension or loss of recognition by the SGA Finance Committee, Speaker of the Senate, or SGA Treasurer. Only the committee shall overturn such discretionary decisions.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

October 15th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 570010

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise communications regarding student organizations

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association, SGA, receives many communications from student organizations and their representatives, students or faculty, regarding recognition of or other matter pertaining to their oversight; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of clear guidelines regarding student organizations and SGA leadership and how to communicate in a professional and respectful manner; and

WHEREAS, student organizations who are seeking full approval sometimes jump ahead without yet being fully recognized and provide push back to SGA officials, or Student Involvement representatives, who are attempting to clarify or provide information; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association representatives are still students and must fulfil academic obligations which enables said representatives to maintain the GPA requirements but also fulfil other life obligations; and

WHEREAS, Student Involvement staff that assist SGA in student organization and development matters also have responsibilities and obligations outside SGA that they are required to attend; and

WHEREAS, these provisions do not encourage SGA members to neglect their duties, responsibilities, or decrease communication with student organizations and any indication that they are shall be considered a dereliction of duty that the Speaker of the Senate or the SGA President may investigate further to determine any disciplinary actions based on which branch they pertain too; and

WHEREAS, this shall be one bill of two that will help to streamline communication between the Student Government Association and student organizations regarding finance discussion items for streamline purposes and mitigate confusion or miscommunication regarding SGA policies and decisions; 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

PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

The SGA shall outline an orderly process to assist organizations in obtaining recognition and prevent false or inappropriate groups from receiving recognition. The Vice President, together with the Organization Oversight Committee is charged with overseeing the recognition process. The recognition process consists of the following steps listed below.

- A. Recognition Form: All groups seeking recognition must complete an Organization Registration Form on NIU's Student Organization Platform that consists of the following:
1. Organization Description: for use by all new organizations as well as returning organizations that wish to change their description.
 2. Organization Officers: for use at the beginning of each academic year any time an officer or faculty advisor changes during the academic year and during Mid-Year Transition.
 3. Faculty/Staff Advisor Agreement: for use when starting an organization and at any time the faculty advisor changes during the following school year.
 4. Governing Documents: including the organization's constitution, bylaws, and national constitution (if applicable).
- B. Office of the President Review
1. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall collect all necessary recognition forms, documents, and other materials that pertain to the new student organization.
 2. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall take a review of all the materials to ensure that everything required by Student Government Association is met. Upon satisfaction to either party, the Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee.
- C. Organization Oversight Committee Review
- The Organization Oversight Committee will meet with the leader(s) of the organization, review its constitution, and make a recommendation to approve or reject the organization for full SGA Senate approval. The Organization Oversight Committee will also determine the classification of the organization if approved. The Organizational Oversight Committee can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization, otherwise be granted full recognition by committee members. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the Treasurer of the SGA of the organization's full recognition as well as the organization's designated classification being granted after approval in the Organization Oversight Committee meeting. Committee members must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization's recognition. Recommendation of recognition of an organization can be made without a meeting with the leaders of the organization only following approval from both the organization and the Organization Oversight Committee.
- D. Organization Oversight Notification
- If the organization has no members able to attend the assigned meeting and does not contact the SGA in advance. The Organization Oversight Committee will hold the organization for three (3) months from the day it was introduced to the committee before the SGA. Organization Oversight Committee may proceed to reject the organization for full approval. They shall resubmit all application materials as outlined in these Bylaws to return to the SGA Organization Oversight Committee for approval without time penalty.
- E. Senate Notification
- Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee must state the organization for which was approved during the committee. The Senate shall be empowered to compel the Chairperson to notify of any organization approvals if after two (2) weeks they have failed to do so at a Senate meeting. The Chairperson's failure to notify the Senate does not impact the full recognition of the new student organization in any way. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the treasurer of the SGA of the organization's full recognition as well as the organization's designated classification.

E. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee for approval must wait at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of rejection to reapply for recognition. Prospective organizations that were rejected due to being on the agenda for three (3) months are exempt from this provision. In cases where an organization has lost recognition due to violations of Student Government Association policy and/or Student Code of Conduct and/or has shown a pattern of such behavior, the university may advise on the waiting period for reapplication.

F. Recognition After Cease of Existence

If a recognized student organization, either voluntarily or involuntarily disbands or ceases to exist on campus in an official capacity for longer than one academic year the organization must go through the recognition process again.

G. Communication Between Student Organizations and SGA

The organization shall receive notification of their recognition only through the Student Government Association email and shall only respond with questions or concerns to the SGA email or the Organization Development department in the chosen form of contact. Continuously contacting individuals associated with the Organization Oversight Committee, Organization Development department, or SGA as a whole privately via social media, private email, or in person without scheduling a meeting in regards to the decision made by the Organizational Oversight committee may be viewed as harassment which can result in loss of recognition at the discretion of the Organization Oversight Committee, Speaker of the Senate, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee. Only the committee shall overturn such discretionary decisions.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Senator Obabko, Senator Zimmer

First Reading

Friday October 15, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57015

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to implement Discussion Senate Agenda Item Guidelines

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part 1, Article II Section §4.B Student Government Association Bylaws states, “The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall be concerned with the proper management of the Student Government Association, the University, and/or their subdivisions. The Committee shall review and recommend revision of any procedures, guidelines, rules, or legislation of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Committee.”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez pointed out to the Rules & Procedures Committee that the SGA Senate has traditionally only discussed legislation that has been put on the agenda compared to other student governments in the State of Illinois that discuss and debate legislation and topic ideas; and

WHEREAS, the Senate meeting is the only instance where all elected Senators interact with each other, having discussions that could contribute to better understanding of issues related to campus or constituencies will allow for better understanding and direction for SGA standing committees; and

WHEREAS, the Rules & Procedures Committee, R&P, have elected to adopt such discussion item for the Senate Agenda and approved guidelines that will manage expectations and flow of discussion during the agenda item piece; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines shall serve as a template for a trail run on Friday October 31st, 2025 Senate meeting where afterwards Rules & Procedures Committee will evaluate the success of the initiative before codifying it in the Senate Operating Manual which requires a resolution; and

WHEREAS, in the meantime, any idea and potential initiatives that were discussed during the Discussion Senate template can be brought to the attention of committee chairpersons depending on the topic to review or a resolution can be filed to direct any particular committee to adopt it as an item for deliberation and further discussion;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve the guidelines for the Discussion Senate Agenda Item:

The Speaker of the Senate shall lead the discussion by following Roberts Rules of Order and manage the decorum and procession of the conversation. Only the Speaker may acknowledge those who can speak, so long as the speaker raises their hand and waits to be called on.

1. After a motion is called to move to the discussion agenda item piece, the Speaker shall open the floor for a synopsis on the rational for the discussion item and then open the floor to discussion and debate. The Speaker shall recognize participants to speak.

2. If no one should volunteer to speak after the floor has been opened, the Speaker shall go in order of the Senate roster and give each Senator a chance to comment on the topic.
3. After discussion and debate for 5 minutes or after the Speaker goes through the roster, then any member of the voting Senate may move to close discussion or debate on the agenda item.
4. If an actionable item that the Senate wishes to conduct after conversation, such as referring the matter to an SGA Standing Committee or otherwise, that shall constitute a need for a motion and vote to do so in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.
5. Senate members may draft a resolution to commit an idea or action to an SGA Standing Committee or otherwise based on discussions related to the agenda item subject to review by the Rules & Procedures Committee.
6. All Senate members are required to continue to uphold SGA and University standards of respect and decorum and can be removed from the meeting by either the Speaker of the Senate or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and be given a full point unexcused absence which cannot be appealed.
7. All Senate members shall be given a copy of these guidelines by an means and shall be uploaded to SGA's same repository of governing documents.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 15, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57016

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Luke Galloway has met the requirements necessary to be appointed as a member of the Student Government Association Senate; and

WHEREAS, Luke Galloway is running to represent the Liberal Arts & Sciences; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the Liberal Arts & Sciences; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for the constituency of Liberal Arts & Sciences:

Luke Galloway

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.