

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday October 31st, 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 30th, 2025.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Senate Minutes 10.24.2025
- 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)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57011: A bill to revise Senator's responsibilities
 - B. SR57017: A resolution to approve all meeting times, locations, and dates for the Spring 2026 semester.
 - C. SR57018: A resolution to disperse funds to the Huskie Food Pantry
 - D. SR57019: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - E. SR57020: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - F. Discussion Regarding Transportation
- 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.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Deputy Speaker Guerrero, Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker Guerro, Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 31st, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57011

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Senator's responsibilities

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the current requirements for Senators include having to complete CODE and Ally training as a continued requirement to remain a Student Government Association Senator; and

WHEREAS, Senators must also conduct outreach training and public relations event attendance training as a continued requirement to remain a Student Government Association Senator; and

WHEREAS, these requirements although beneficial and serve the purpose by connecting Senators with the greater Northern Illinois University student body, only add to the greater bureaucratic apparatus that befalls the Office of the Speaker, Senators, and greater Student Government association as a whole; and

WHEREAS, these revisions will allow Senators greater flexibility to execute their duties and streamlines the bureaucratic apparatus of the Student Government Association (SGA) to allow the Office of the Speaker and Senators to focus on high priority issues; and

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

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

ARTICLE II

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 2

Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

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

- A. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
- B. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
 1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:

- a. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
 - b. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
 - c. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being met, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
 - a. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
 3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker's decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.
 4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
 - ~~5. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator's excusal form.~~
- C. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Parliamentarian and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written

statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

D. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) or an ally training available through an NIU resource center during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.

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

~~E. Senators are required to complete one ally training available through an NIU resource center during the first semester of their one-year term in office.~~

- ~~1. If a Senator has already completed ally training during their term for another purpose, they shall not be required to complete additional ally training.~~
- ~~2. If a Senator is appointed after the final ally training of the semester has occurred or is otherwise unable to attend any remaining sessions due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.~~
- ~~3. Senators shall be required to complete ally training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed ally training during the previous term.~~
- ~~4. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker or their designee to coordinate with resource centers to make available a minimum of two (2) ally training opportunities per semester for Senators.~~

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

G. Senators are required to attend or execute at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event related to their respective area of constituency per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend or execute at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government

Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

H. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.

I. Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for their work accomplished during the semester. The amount will be predetermined by the Speaker and Student Advisor and will only be rewarded fully upon the completion of all responsibilities that a Senator must complete within the semester.

1. The Office of the Speaker will collect a list of the duties and responsibilities that Senators will complete over the semester. From there, the Office of the Speaker will determine the amount each Senator shall receive based on the list of completion.
2. The Office of the Speaker will release to each Senator individually the total amount of the stipend they will receive based on their work for Senate no later than two (2) weeks before the last meeting of the semester.
3. It is at the Speaker's discretion to award a portion of the stipend to a Senator if the Senator completed only a partial amount of the listed responsibilities for a Senator. Should the Senator wish to appeal the decision for the amount received, the Senator can appeal with the Rules and Procedures Committee within one (1) week of the initial notice of the stipend release.
4. If a Senator graduates within one semester of session, the requirements to receive the stipend will be the same as if they were serving as a Senator for an entire session.
5. If a Senator joins before the semester ends, they will still be held to the same responsibilities as any other Senator and will receive the amount determined by the Office of the Speaker.
6. If a Senator does not complete a single one of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and that are described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Manual, they will not receive any amount of the stipend. This cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
7. If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.

J. Senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of Senate or SGA to any members of the public or press. Senators are required to point any questions, comments, or concerns to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as they are the main representatives of Senate. Should any Senator violate this policy, the Speaker shall enact disciplinary action up to and including the Senator's removal from office.

1. Senators are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules and Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks' notice of the disciplinary action.

This legislation is to take effect at the start of the 58th Session

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Senator Obabko

First Reading

Friday October 31st, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57017

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve all meeting times, locations, and dates for the Spring 2026 semester.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Senate shall meet on a weekly basis on Fridays at 4:30 PM Central Standard Time in various rooms of the Holmes Student Center for the Spring 2026 semester; and

WHEREAS, the meeting schedule must be agreed upon and approved by the members represented in the Seante;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve the Spring 2026 Senate Meeting Schedule as listed below:

SGA SENATE MEETING SCHDUEL SPRING 2026

All meetings shall be at 4:30 PM in the Holmes Student Center unless otherwise noted. Rooms will be announced via agendas each week.

Friday, January 16th – No Meeting

Friday January 23rd– Sky Room

Friday January 30th - Sky Room

Friday, February 6th - Sky Room

Friday, February 13th – No Meeting (Tournament Day)

Friday, February 20th - Sky Room

Friday, February 27th - Sky Room

Friday, March 6th - Sky Room

Friday, March 13st – No Meeting (Spring Break)

Friday, March 20th – Sky Room

Friday March 27th - Sky Room

Friday, April 3rd – Sky Room

Friday, April 10th – Sky Room

Friday, April 17th – Sky Room

Friday, April 24th – Sky Room

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Treasurer Lazaric, Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Treasurer Lazaric, Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, October 31st, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57018

Fifty-Sixth Session

Summary: A resolution to disperse funds to the Huskie Food Pantry

WHEREAS, the United States Senate was unable to pass an appropriations bill that to fund the government for fiscal year 2026 which began on October 1st, 2025, leading to the second-longest government shutdown in U.S history at the time of this resolution's drafting; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture announced on October 27th, 2025, that SNAP benefits will not be released impacting millions of Americans including Northern Illinois University students who are on SNAP benefits affecting their ability to consume food and obtain other nutritional items since Dekalb is considered a food desert; and

WHEREAS, to meet these unprecedented times and for the benefit of NIU students, the Student Government Association Senate shall reallocate a portion of the Student Government Association budget to Northern Illinois University Huskie Pantry; and

WHEREAS, the funds will cover operational expenses for the Pantry so it can focus its own budget to purchasing food items for the pantry to serve students; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that the SGA Treasurer shall, "Oversee the management and appropriations of SGA funds."; and

WHEREAS, this resolution originated in the SGA Finance Committee and authorized by the SGA Treasurer to fulfill the Section 3.A clause of the SGA Constitution;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby direct \$1,000 to the Northern Illinois University Huskie Food Pantry

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 31st, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57019

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Daitrell Sanders is running to represent the Senator-at-large and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the Senator-at-large; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for the constituency of Senator-at-large:

Daitrell Sanders

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday October 31, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57020

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Tristan Gunther is running to represent the Senator-at-large and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the Senator-at-large; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for the constituency of Senator-at-large:

Tristan Gunther

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.