

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
 - B. Senate Minutes 10.31.2025
- 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
 - 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. SR57020: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - D. Discussion Regarding Transportation
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57012: A bill to revise Senator responsibilities regarding Outreach campaigns and Public Relations
 - B. SB57013: A bill to revise SGA election policies
 - C. SB57014: A bill to further revise SGA election policies
 - D. SB57015: A bill to adjust Senator seats during the election process
 - E. SB57016: A bill to revise student organization policies
 - F. SB57017: a bill to revise student organization finance communication
 - G. SR57021: A resolution to confirm the Spring 2026 Board of Elections
 - H. SR57022: A resolution to increase the number of Senators
 - I. SR57023: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - J. SR57024: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - K. SR57025: A resolution to confirm 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: 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, discussion during the Student Government Association Senate meeting on Friday October 31st regarding SB57011 yielded questions and concerns regarding the removal of Outreach campaigns and it's consolidation with Public Relation Event; and

WHEREAS, discussion and debate seemed to support the combination of CODE and ally training during the same Friday Senate meeting; and

WHEREAS, it is elected to separate the Public Relations Event and Outreach campaign provisions into a separate bill to allow for more meaningful discussions and revisions to that section without the possibility of the CODE and ally training provisions being rejected if the bill fails to pass due to constituency requirements; and

WHEREAS, since this separation amends SB57011 to remove such Public Relations and Outreach provisions, SB57011 still has satisfied its first reading threshold found in the SGA Constitution regarding the definition of bills allowing SB57011 to be passed on its second reading; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation of CODE and ally training allow for bureaucratic apparatus in the Office of the Speaker when scheduling these trainings and verification of attendance and improves the workflow for Senators themselves while holding true to the rationale for why these trainings were mandated initially; 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 at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service 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

Old 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 SCHEDULE 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.

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

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.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Guerrero

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Guerro

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57012

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Senator responsibilities regarding to Outreach campaigns and Public Relations

Legislation:

WHEREAS, discussion during the Student Government Association Senate meeting on Friday October 31st regarding SB57011 yielded questions and concerns regarding the removal of Outreach campaigns and it's consolidation with Public Relation Event; and

WHEREAS, discussion and debate seemed to support the combination of CODE and ally training during the same Friday Senate meeting; and

WHEREAS, it is elected to separate the Public Relations Event and Outreach campaign provisions into a separate bill to allow for more meaningful discussions and revisions to that section without the possibility of the CODE and ally training provisions being rejected if the bill fails to pass due to constituency requirements; and

WHEREAS, since this separation of the Public Relations and Outreach provisions into SB57012 which is to be considered a new bill and thus is only in its first reading in accordance with the SGA Constitution regarding the definition of bills being the Senate meeting on Friday November 7th, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of Public Relations, which was poorly enforced prior to the 57th Session reduces bureaucracy in the Office of the Speaker while reducing pressure on Senators yet allowing it to be retained at a Speaker's decision upon including it to the Senate Operating Manual which needs to be approved by sitting Senators; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Constituency provisions allows greater freedom and clearer guidance on how Senators should interact with their constituencies but also provides transparency on how constituents should expect to hear from their representatives to Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the clause for securing permission from the Office of the Speaker, though seems bureaucratic serves to purpose to ensure that any action conducted by Senators is done professionally with good faith and if something arises, the Office of the Speaker can directly intervene if necessary since they are aware of the efforts; 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 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 for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement 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) 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 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 training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE 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 training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
 4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
 5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses per semester with the appropriate university office
- 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 may be invited to appear at events hosted or co-hosted by SGA and may be compelled to do so if the Senate Operating Manual provides for it. Senators cannot be compelled to an event if they have an academic or job conflict, the Senate Operating Manual does not require attendance, and if the Senate Operating Manual requires more than 1 public relations attendance per semester. ~~Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service 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~~ Senators who fail to appear, if required and in accordance to Senate Operating Manual and Bylaws, must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not appearing or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.
- H. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective ~~area of~~ constituency. Senators may choose to work with other Senators in their constituency to plan and execute an outreach campaign. All outreach campaigns, conducted individually or in teams must secure from the Office of the Speaker written permission to do so and progress reports. ~~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. Outreach campaigns can take on many forms including:
1. Surveys asking for information and judgement on a policy being disbursed and collected by the Senator(s)
 2. Tabling in the specific college or academic building that pertains to the constituency for interactions or information college.
 3. A town hall event
 4. Any other modality approved by the Office of the Speaker, with final say being the Speaker.
- 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

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57013

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise SGA election policies

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association’s priorities for the 57th Session are to improve transparency in the workings of the government but also reduce and streamline bureaucratic systems for better ease and convenience; and

WHEREAS, we want to ensure that there are no issues with the upcoming Spring 2026 election cycle for Executive and Senator positions; and

WHEREAS, the changes being implemented here are to promote transparency regarding Student Government Association elections for the betterment of the student body and those running in the elections; and

WHEREAS, provisions such as setting a cap of the Board of Elections stipend are with the budget deficit that Northern Illinois University is under and the budget shortfall that is anticipated for the next fiscal year due to only a 1% increase in funding from the State of Illinois and unknown factors from Washington D.C; and

WHEREAS, the explicit wording of certain clauses ensures that the Senate understands its responsibility and influence over the Board of Elections and Election Commissioner to ensure that there is transparency and reduce potential issues that may be present; and

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

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

ARTICLE I

TIMELINE OF SPRING ELECTIONS

- A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of October.
- B. Nominations for the Board of Elections shall take place no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of November. The Board of Elections shall also be appointed at the next consecutive meeting.
- C. Candidates’ meetings must take place no later than the Monday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess.
- D. Candidates’ registration shall close the Friday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess, and the ballot shall be announced no later than the Wednesday 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 or the conclusion of any appeals regarding appeals, whichever is later.
- 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 or the conclusion of any appeals regarding appeals, which is later.

ARTICLE II Election Commission

Section 2 Election Commissioner

- A. To hold the office of Election Commissioner, a student must fulfill the following requirements:
 - 1. Must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students or 3.00 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
 - 2. Shall be paid the same hourly rate as the highest paid executive staff member for each hour worked. No person shall become Election Commissioner who already holds a paid position within the SGA.
 - 3. An undergraduate student must be enrolled for twelve (12) semester hours in the same semester in which they shall serve; all other students must also be enrolled for nine (9) semester hours.
 - 4. Shall disclose their organizational affiliation to the Senate during their confirmation Office of the Speaker 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. When the Senate is in session, the Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President for the Spring Election with the approval of the Senate. The Senate shall have oversight authority over the performance of the Election Commissioner.
- C. When the Senate is not in session, the a Temporary Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the President with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections. The Temporary Election Commissioner so appointed will hold office until the Senate can confirm the appointment convene. If the President is unable to reach an agreement with the Board as to the appointment of an Election Commissioner, then the Speaker shall appoint the Election Commissioner with the approval of at least three of the five members of the Board of Elections.
- D. The authority and duties of the Election Commissioner include
 - 1. The Election Commissioner shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Elections.
 - 2. The Election Commissioner will administer all NIU Student Government Association elections and referenda in accordance with the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and Elections Policy.
 - 3. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to issue warnings and sanctions to candidates, their supporter(s), or any other person interfering with an election. The Election Commissioner cannot disqualify candidates.
 - 4. All rulings of the Election Commissioner shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) business hours of business.
 - 5. The Election Commissioner shall be responsible for holding executive candidate debate(s) at least one (1) week preceding the week of Spring Elections.
 - 6. The authority to issue warnings and sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the section detailing Warning, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
- E. 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. in accordance with the Removal

~~Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.~~

- F. 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.
- G. 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.

Section 3 Board of Elections

- A. To serve on the Board of Elections, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or be the defendant in any civil or criminal procedures with the University is also a party. The student must also have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. All members must be currently enrolled students with no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections. ~~There is no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections.~~
- B. Board of Elections members shall receive a stipend, except for the Election Commissioner. A person who already holds an hourly rate paid position within the Student Government Association is eligible to receive a stipend. The stipend for the Board of Elections shall not be approved or disbursed until after the conclusion of the election cycle. The Senate shall decide on the dollar amount of the stipend via a resolution to be approved by a simple majority without input from the Election Commissioner. The limit for a stipend is no more than one-thousand dollars (\$1,000). ~~It shall be up to the discretion of the Election Commissioner to decide on the dollar amount of the stipend each year, with consent from the Senate in the form of a vote. If the Election Commissioner is unable to set this stipend, the Senate shall be empowered to do so by a majority vote.~~ No member of the current Board of Elections may vote on said stipend.
- C. When the Senate is in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedure:
 - 1. All persons interested in becoming members of the Board of Elections shall be nominated at a Senate meeting by a member of the Senate. Nominees need not be members of the SGA.
 - 2. Those who shall qualify to hold a position on the Board of Elections shall appear at the same Senate meeting. The Senators shall vote on all candidates for membership on the Board of Elections at the same time. Each Senator shall have one (1) vote. Senators who are being considered for positions on the Board may not vote in the determination of Board members. The vote shall not commence until there are at least five (5) nominees.
 - 3. Nominations for the Board of Elections must disclose any organizational affiliation or if they have a working relationship with anyone presently in SGA to the Senate.
 - 4. The five (5) people receiving the most votes shall become members of the Board. If a tie vote occurs, then the Senate shall vote again only to break the tie and decide between those who are tied.
 - 5. The Senate meeting at which members of the Board of Elections are appointed shall be selected at the discretion of the Speaker of the Senate with the approval of the Senate.
 - 6. The two (2) people receiving the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) highest number of votes shall be designated as alternate members of the Board of Elections, to become full members if other members are removed or resign during the election process.
 - 7. If there is not an Election Commissioner appointed, the Senate shall vote a second time to choose one of the members of the Board and shall designate that person as Chairperson of the Board of Elections. The Senate shall vote, according to ranked choice voting rules. The person with the most votes shall become Election Commissioner.
- D. When the Senate is not in session, the Board of Elections shall be appointed in accordance to the following procedures:
 - 1. The members of the Board of Elections shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate with approval

of the President and the Vice President.

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. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Any member of the Board of Elections may call a meeting of the Board.
8. The Board of Elections shall assist in publicizing and promoting the elections to ensure maximum candidate and voter turnout.
9. The authority to issue sanctions and hear appeals shall be outlined in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Warning, Sanctions, Appeals, and Disqualifications.
10. In the absence of an Election Commissioner, the Board of Elections shall be empowered with all the authority granted to the Election Commissioner.
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.

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 a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate. ~~in accordance with the Removal Process outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.~~

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 ELECTIONS MEETING TIMES

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 additional candidate meetings if deemed necessary.
- E. The Board of Elections shall meet every business day of the week of the election, runoff election, or special election.
- F. The Board of Elections will meet until results are released as stated in the SGA Bylaws: Election Policy: Timeline of Spring Elections.

This legislation shall go in effect immediately

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez,

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57014

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to further revise SGA election policies

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association’s priorities for the 57th Session are to improve transparency in the workings of the government but also reduce and streamline bureaucratic systems for better ease and convenience; and

WHEREAS, we want to ensure that there are no issues with the upcoming Spring 2026 election cycle for Executive and Senator positions; and

WHEREAS, to prevent potential Artificial Intelligence infractions since there is nothing present in the SGA Bylaws, this bill aims to prevent that from occurring by outright banning it given the complexity of verifying what percentage a potential campaign material was made by A.I or how to verify if it was made with A.I; and

WHEREAS, A.I Deepfake technology and other A.I generated videos have gotten more advanced as years progressed and models have improved which can create issues of discerning facts and fiction with election materials; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of Student Involvement as a final place to hear election appeals is due to the running issues of the SGA Supreme Court having a lack of justices needed to hold a quorum during the 57th Session and the lack of resolve during the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, 57th Session leadership in conjunction with the SGA Supreme Court’s remaining justices have tried to find suitable students to become justices but have become unsuccessful and SGA leadership is worried if an instance arises where the SGA Supreme Court is needed and there is no backup option for those seeking an appeal; and

WHEREAS, the included Student Involvement provision still allows student voices via Student Government Association personnel being in attendance but also minimizes possibility of conflicts of interest from students who are involved in the election cycle by including Student Involvement which remains and will continue to remain apolitical in the normal SGA election cycle; and

WHEREAS, this follows a similar model to other student governments in the State of Illinois that has their election process handled by completely neutral outside parties but retains Northern Illinois University’s tradition of empowering it’s students to conduct student body business such as 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 Bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

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.

Section 2 Physical and Written Campaign Materials

- A. 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.
- B. 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 be visibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and Approved by the Board of Elections before any material is posted or distributed.
- C. 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.
- D. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including, but not limited to, posting, or passing out campaign materials.
- H. No campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries, except for posting materials on public bulletin boards.
- I. 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.
- ~~D. The Board of Elections shall decide questions of appropriate usage of electronic platforms. Inappropriate usage includes personal attacks or defamation of character.~~

Section 4 Verbal Campaigning

- A. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.
- B. No door-to-door solicitation of votes in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director. Those in violation of this regulation may be forbidden from campaigning in that residence hall for a period of not less than 48 hours. The Board of Elections shall decide questions regarding inappropriate usage of verbal campaigns and other violations.
- C. Verbal campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including speeches. No verbal campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries.

ARTICLE V SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

Section 3 Filing an Appeal to the Board

- A. Prior to Election Day: All appeals to the Board must be filed within twenty-four (24) hours of the notice of action or decision of the Board of Elections. Such time of action or decision must be written on the hard copy of the decision or action posted in the SGA office. All appeals will be in writing and will be directed to the Election Commissioner who will, within four (4) hours of receipt of the appeal, notify the Board of Elections Members, and other persons who it may be reasonably assumed are relevant parties to the appeal, of both the filing of the appeal and the time at which a hearing will be held on the appeal.
 - 1. The Board of Elections will hear and rule on any appeal within three (3) days, except on election days or before elections start, whichever is sooner.
- B. On Election Day: Appeals may be made in person at the meetings of the Board, and no written appeal is necessary. Each day of elections and prior to reviewing any election results, the Board shall meet at the end of each election period and hear all pending requests for appeals. No appeal may be made to the Board after two (2) hours after the close of the voting on the last day of the election, unless entirely new information has been discovered and the person making the appeal could not be properly expected to have known about the information.
 - 1. During an appeal, all elections will proceed as scheduled unless the Board concludes that the conduct of a fair election has been rendered impossible due to a violation(s) of the election procedures.
 - 2. In the event of an appeal, the Election Commissioner will impound all ballots and seal all election results pending the exhaustion of all appeals to the Board of Elections, SGA Supreme Court, or Student Involvement. ~~and the SGA Supreme Court.~~
- C. The Board of Elections may uphold, reverse, or modify any action or decision of the Election Commissioner appealed to the Board.
- D. Submitting an appeal to the SGA Supreme Court: Submission of the appeal must be made pursuant to the procedures set forth by the Supreme Court's Code of Procedure or in its silence by the Chief Justice. Copies may be obtained from the SGA main office.

E. Submitting an appeal to Student Involvement: Should the SGA Supreme Court be unavailable for any reason, the submission of an appeal can be made to Student Involvement in writing within twenty-four (24) hours after a decision by the Board of Elections or Election Commissioner. Student Involvement shall assemble a panel, chaired by the SGA Adviser, made up of Student Involvement faculty members and the SGA President, SGA Speaker, and any member of SGA. If the sanction, disqualification, or issue that is the subject of appeal pertain to the President, Speaker, or SGA member due to affiliation, same ticket, or they are the subject, they shall recuse themselves and the next senior position in their respective branch shall be selected until someone who is not affiliated is able to attend the panel. This shall be the final appeal available and is considering binding with no avenue to overturn the decision.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Guerrero

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Deputy Speaker Guerrero

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57015

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to adjust Senator seats during the election process

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is experiencing a healthy number of students' interested in joining as a Senator with many of them present in the Senate chamber during the first reading of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez and Deputy Speaker Eddie Guerrero have shared similar concerns that the current SGA Bylaws regarding minimum and maximum number of Senate seats does not reflect reality such as in the instance that the 57th Session began with only 10 Senators including the Speaker of the Senate which the SGA Bylaws state that there can only be a minimum of 21 seats; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws are vague in wording if it is meant that there were 21 seats that are to be open for election but does not have to be filled or if they need to be filled; and

WHEREAS, the election cycle does not necessarily factor in realities of the present as in the instance of the 57th Session: Northern Illinois University saw high enrollment in the Fall 2025 semester which is helping to fuel the increase of Senators, but this was something that Board of Election in Spring of 2025 when determining Senate seats could anticipate; and

WHEREAS, the current formula for determining Senate seats is based on total student population and part of that number is then multiplied by 20% per college to yield additional seats which doesn't take into consideration if colleges saw a surge in enrollment such as the College of Law during this Fall 2025 semester; and

WHEREAS, the new formula directly adds increased Senate seats to each specific college based on the colleges population to make it more equitable with several reserved for At-large positions that can be filled during an election cycle but also reserved for when Senate is in session to accommodate large interest in the SGA; and

WHEREAS, the wording of the formula was ensured to be easy to comprehend for sessions to come as opposed to the current formula which has comprehension questionable at best; 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 III QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY

Section 1 Legislative 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 ~~seventy-five (75) seats.~~ fifty-five (55) seats.
2. The number of seats in the Senate at one time shall not be less than ~~twenty (21) seats.~~ 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 ~~one (1) seat.~~ three (3) seats.
 - c. Students residing in any university provided housing shall occupy ~~two (2) seats.~~ 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 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.
5. The College Equitable Formula is as follows $C = (p / 1000)$:
 - a. Where C is equal to 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 seat 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 data will be 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%) of total number of T is reserved for those interested in joining Senate utilizing the At-Large process in the fall semester. Where there 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. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing underserved communities.
8. A minimum of twenty percent (20%), rounded to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing the university at large.

9. A minimum of ten percent (10%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing university provided housing.
10. A minimum of ten percent (10%), rounded up to the nearest whole number seat, of the seats should be reserved for senators representing international students.
11. The rest of the seats shall be reserved based on enrollment and housing data, gathered from the division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications from the most current enrollment data done by 31st of January, such that there is one seat for every one thousand (1000) students rounded to the nearest whole number seat.
12. 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 be raised to Seante where the Senate may pass a resolution affirming or rejecting the decision of the Board of Elections and setting the appropriate Seante seats number.
13. Calculation for determination of available seats for the upcoming session:
 - a. $Y = A + B + C + D$
 1. Y: total number of senator seats
 2. A: Senator Seats for undergraduate colleges, college of law, and the two grad student seats
 - a. $A = (\text{student population}/1000) + \text{Grad seats}(2) + \text{College of law}(1)$
 3. B: Underserved Communities: twenty percent of A multiplied by two with a minimum requirement of seven seats
 - a. $B = 0.2(2A)$ as long as it is ≥ 7 if not then it will be seven seats.
 4. C: Students at large: twenty percent of A multiplied by two
 - a. $C = 0.2(2A)$
 5. D: University Provided Housing: ten percent of A multiplied by two
 - a. $D = 0.1(2A)$
 6. B, C, and D need to be rounded to the nearest whole number that is also equal or greater than the required percentage.
- B. During the spring elections, fifty percent (50%), rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the seats for students residing in university provided housing and fifty percent (50%), rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the seats for students representing the university at large shall remain vacant for those not wishing to join Senate through the Spring election process as a fall at-large, including new students. The rest of the seats may be filled in the spring elections.
- C. 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.
- D. 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 shall check on the validity of signatures by 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.
- E. 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.

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

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57016

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Student Organization policies

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association recognizes that everyone is still a student and that although student life at Northern Illinois University may be a reason to have enrolled at the university it is academics that is the primary responsibility and duty of NIU students; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association wants to ensure that elected officials of student organizations are not compromising their academics to serve in their roles of their respective student organizations; and

WHEREAS, this allows fresh faces, ideas, and commitments to take charge of student organizations; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of ensuring that the three interested members are the positions of president, vice president, and treasurer not only follows the re-registration process but also to ensure that not only are the student organizations able to have a solid foundation based on their own constitutions but also able to receive vital information regarding SGA funding helping to eliminate the concerns and miscommunication that Speaker Gonzalez has noted; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of having student organizations representatives ensure that they speak to SGA representatives through their A-ID email address and cc'd the SGA email address ensures that there is a clear record of communication that can prevent miscommunication from administration to administration or from individuals to individuals should SGA members resign, be impeached, or step back; and

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

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

ARTICLE II

REQUIREMENTS OF RECOGNITION

Section 2

Membership and Required Positions

A. Every student organization must have at least one (1) advisor

B. Student organizations must have the position of president, vice president, and treasurer filled who are NIU

students to receive initial recognition. They may also have additional interested members but that does not forgo the required positions denoted above. Only one (1) person may occupy the required position. No individual can overlap as president or vice president, or any other combination to receive initial recognition.

- C. ~~Student organizations must have at least three (3) interested members who are NIU Students to receive initial recognition.~~
- D. Student organizations that cannot maintain at least three (3) members registered in NIU's Student Organization Platform must work with staff in the areas of Fraternity and Sorority Life or Student Organization Development to develop a recruitment plan.
- E. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President.
- F. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.
- G. Every organization shall include the following non-discrimination statement in their constitution:
- a. As a student organization recognized by the Student Government Association, we will prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religion, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, military/ veteran status or any other identity prohibited by federal or state law or university policy. Accordingly, no student may be excluded from membership or leadership in a registered student organization based on any of the aforementioned identities, unless exempt under Title IX. However, registered student organizations may limit their membership and leadership to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's sincerely held beliefs or statement of principles, comply with the organization's standards of conduct, and further the organization's mission or purpose as defined by the organization.
- H. The only exceptions to Part F immediately above are as follows:
- a. Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
 - b. Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
 - c. Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those selected from the constituent groups.
 - d. A student organization may outline in their constitution a desire to be a restrictive organization, where full membership and full participation is selected by a clearly outlined democratic process. A restrictive organization shall be unable to request any funding from the Student Government Association.
 - e. Student organizations that are part of a national organization and are restricted from establishing a local constitution at NIU can be exempt, pending review by the Organizational Oversight Committee. The student organization shall provide physical evidence and the national organization's constitution before the organization can receive temporary recognition as a student organization.
- I. Any organization that offers certain privileges or opportunities to a limited membership must clearly outline in their constitution how the organization's regular membership is provided with ample opportunity for involvement.

Section 3

Maintaining Recognized Status

- A. All recognized student organizations must complete the Annual Renewal process each fall and the Transition process half-way through the year to maintain recognition. This process is to be facilitated by Student Organization staff.
- B. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU's Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
- C. All communication regarding student organization must be communicated using the Student Government Association (SGA) email address, or have it cc'd on the thread. Representatives of the student organization

must also utilize the SGA representative's employee email address.

- D. Any major modifications or changes to the constitution that occur outside of the Annual Recognition or Transition Process must be submitted to and approved by the Organization Oversight Committee. Major modifications to the Constitution include but are not limited to:
1. Changes that restrict or broaden NIU student membership
 2. Changes that pertain to the collection of dues within an organization
 3. The changing of the name of a student organization
 4. More than three (3) sections of updates to the Constitution due to an organization using an outdated Constitution
 5. Any changes to the Constitution that will directly affect the student organization's tier status.
- E. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
- F. Organizations must have at least the president or vice president of their respective organization to attend CODE training in the fall semester of each academic year. President or vice president must be certified to have completed CODE trainings to receive credit.

ARTICLE III REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

Section 1 Officers

1. Each organization must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the president.
2. Each organization must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the vice president and must have a minimum of one (1) elected student officer who shall be designated as the treasurer.
3. All officers must be fee-paying students in good standing with the University and the SGA regarding all academic, misconduct, judicial, and student organization funding issues. To hold any officer position, an undergraduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University, a graduate student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 during their tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University.
4. If the cumulative NIU GPA of an elected officer drops below the requirement, they shall be allowed one grace semester to bring it back up. During this semester, they shall retain their position and all its rights and responsibilities. If the elected officer is unable to bring their GPA to the requirement after the grace period, their officer position is automatically revoked and the officer next in line of succession per the organization's constitution shall take office immediately. Should an officer's cumulative NIU GPA fall below the requirement for two consecutive semesters, their officer position shall be revoked. Appeals shall be sent to the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee for consideration of circumstance.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: F

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57017

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Student Organization policies

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association wants to ensure that there is no miscommunication between student organizations and itself regarding finances; and

WHEREAS, this bill expands on the provisions already passed by the SGA Senate during the 57th Session; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of having student organizations representatives ensure that they speak to SGA representatives through their A-ID email address and cc'd the SGA email address ensures that there is a clear record of communication that can prevent miscommunication from administration to administration or from individuals to individuals should SGA members resign, be impeached, or step back; 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:

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 Event Security Fund and Executive Allocations.
 5. Introduce the fiscal policies and recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
 6. Review and approve Supplemental Funding requests.
- E. Student organizations communicating with any member of the SGA Finance Committee or Student Government Association regarding finances, should cc'd the SGA email address in all communication and utilize the SGA representatives A-ID email address if they have one.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: G

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57021

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm the Spring 2026 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 2026 Election.

Election Commissioner Nominations

1.

Board of Elections

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: H

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57022

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to increase the number of Senators

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is experiencing a healthy number of students' interested in joining as a Senator with many of them present in the Senate chamber during the first reading of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez and Deputy Speaker Eddie Guerrero have shared similar concerns that the current SGA Bylaws regarding minimum and maximum number of Senate seats does not reflect reality such as in the instance that the 57th Session began with only 10 Senators including the Speaker of the Senate which the SGA Bylaws state that there can only be a minimum of 21 seats; and

WHEREAS, the election cycle does not necessarily factor in realities of the present as in the instance of the 57th Session: Northern Illinois University saw high enrollment in the Fall 2025 semester which is helping to fuel the increase of Senators, but this was something that Board of Election in Spring of 2025 when determining Senate seats could anticipate; and

WHEREAS, although Deputy Speaker Guerrero is set to resign from his Senate seat at the close of the Fall 2025 semester due to academic commitments and freeing a space in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences bloc, there is still great demand for Senator seats with many not affiliated with the colleges that currently do not have Senate representation; and

WHEREAS, to meet this demand, the number of University At-Large Senate positions shall increase from the current four (4) to eight (8) to be prepared for demand and interest for the rest of the 57th Session; and

WHEREAS, although the SGA Bylaws does not provide an explicit ability to increase the number of Senate seats, it also does not explicitly prohibit it; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is being proposed to meet the demands of increased student representation and allow their voices to be heard and projected to NIU administration and this resolution shall set a precedent made in good faith if this resolution passes by consent of the Senate if the Senate agrees with the rational set forth in this resolution;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that the total number of University At-Large Senate seats be increased from four (4) to (8) for the remainder of the 7th Session.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: I

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th , 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57023

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Ashanti Walker 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:

Ashanti Walker

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: J

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th , 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57024

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Jaylen Brownlee is running to represent the College of Business and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the College of Business; and

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

Jaylen Brownlee

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: K

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday November 7th , 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57025

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Travis Lozano is running to represent the underserved student community and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the underserved student community; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for the constituency of underserved student community:

Travis Lozano

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.