

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday January 30th, 2026 – 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, January 29th, 2026.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Senate Minutes 10.31.2025
 - B. Senate Minutes 11.07.2025
 - C. Senate Minutes 01.23.2026
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
- VII. Speaker's Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
 - A. President Rivera
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57018: A bill to eliminate the Sergeant At-Arms position
 - B. SB57019: A bill to update expectations and consequences for paid SGA officials
 - C. SB57020: A bill to clarify the Code of Procedures
 - D. SB57021: A bill to further revise student organization policies
 - E. SR57024: A resolution to appoint a Senator
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday January 30th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57018

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to eliminate the Sergeant-at-Arms position.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association’s (SGA) strives to reduce bureaucracy and streamline functions wherever it can which includes consolidating or eliminating none needed positions; and

WHEREAS, the Sergeant-at Arms position has been unfilled since the 55th Session and was not occupied since it was not deemed important by 56th Session Speaker Manny Corpuz and 57th Session Speaker Nathan Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, many of the provisions that pertain to the Sergeant-at Arms are now done by the Deputy Speaker or the Parliamentary position created and filled in the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, compared to the more extensive duties and responsibilities of the Parliamentary which, although unfilled during the 57th Session, serves a more important and strategic focus for the Office of the Speaker it has lost its meaning aside from a mere title; and

WHEREAS, elimination of this position does not threaten proper enforcement of the SGA Bylaws, SGA Constitution, decorum in the Seante, Office of the Speaker operations or any other execution of duties; and

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

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

**ARTICLE II
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1
Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate**

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

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

B. Legislate all matters of student interest.

C. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.

D. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:

1. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
2. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.

E. Allocate

Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.

F. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.

G. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association.

No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.

H. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.

I. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert's Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.

J. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.

K. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.

L. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.

M. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.

N. It shall be required of all paid positions to write transitional materials due no later than the first week of March. They are to be entrusted to the Clerk.

1. If their successor has already been elected, or appointed, for the term they will serve, they shall work with the incumbent.
2. This applies to all paid positions in the Office of the Speaker, including the Speaker.
3. If any official fails to provide any material by the deadline they will go to the Rules and Procedures Committee.
4. The Office of the Speaker shall review all of each member's materials to ensure they are professional, provide clarity, or otherwise do not contain omissions of fact by the last business day of March.

O. Facilitate and host a "Town Hall" meeting in which the student body is encouraged to directly ask SGA and specifically The President, Vice President, and Senate questions. The student body should also be encouraged to suggest actions SGA might want to consider moving forward.

1. These meetings should happen at least twice per semester and cannot occur within less than two (2) months from the previous meeting, with the exclusion from academic breaks during the school year
2. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy speaker are required to attend this event barring extreme extenuating circumstances.
3. The Senate shall announce and begin advertising the date, time, and location of these meetings at least one (1) week prior to the event.
4. The Speaker, President, Vice President, and Deputy Speaker should make a good faith effort to answer the questions honestly and should work to investigate any suggested actions from the student body.

P. The Senate shall have a number of paid officers, and each shall have duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or Senate Operating Rules.

1. The Speaker of the Senate shall manage all affairs of the body.
2. The Deputy Speaker shall manage all the Senators of the Senate.
3. The Senate Clerk shall be responsible for all recordings and documents of the Senate as directed by the Speaker of the Senate
4. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for accurate records of the SGA.

Q. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. The Deputy Speaker shall:

1. Be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 - i. Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
2. Provide oversight and direction to the Senate Chairs by helping to approve committee events, and coordinate overall activities upon request from Senators, Chairperson, direction of the Speaker, or by self-involvement.
3. Shall meet with Chairpersons at least once a month, and Senators twice a month, to help advise, monitor progress, or otherwise.
4. Shall collect reports from all Chairpersons on their activities prior to Senate and collect reports from Senators who serve in any non-SGA Standing Committees.
5. Shall create and administer leadership quizzes to ensure all elected legislative positions are equipped with sufficient comprehension of Robert's Rules of Order and other knowledge deemed by the Deputy Speaker important to hold the role.
6. Assist the Speaker of the Senate in the execution of duties.
7. Shall temporarily carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the Senate when directed by the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker.
8. Shall become Acting Speaker if at any time the Speaker shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term.
9. Shall serve on the Committee on Rules and Procedures and as vice chair of the committee.
10. Shall serve on the Committee on Organization Oversight and as chair of the committee.
 - i. In the event that the Deputy Speaker is unable to perform the function as chair, they shall be given a verbal warning and may have their position replaced at the discretion of the Speaker.
11. Shall be a paid position.
12. Shall prepare weekly staff reports to be given to the Speaker of the Senate in addition to being placed on the SGA website.
13. Shall serve as one of the main spokespersons for the SGA Senate alongside the Speaker for any press releases or statements made to the press, in regards to the SGA Senate
 - i. At the discretion of the Speaker.
 - ii. If a comment or statement is requested, when answering the Deputy Speaker must objectively speak on behalf of the SGA Senate.

R. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant-at-Arms:

1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
2. Shall preserve order and decorum as directed by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Senate and shall, at the direction of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, have the authority to remove a disorderly individual or group from the Senate chambers.
3. Shall escort all nominees seeking appointment or confirmation to and from the Senate chambers before and after deliberations on their confirmation, respectively.
4. Shall be sensitive to individuals who require special seating for reasons of sight, hearing, etc.
5. Shall enjoy the full rights and privileges extended to all other Senators, including, but not limited to, the right to vote in any and all matters before the Senate.
6. Shall be knowledgeable regarding the SGA Constitution, the SGA Bylaws, and Roberts Rules of Order and shall assist the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in their duties upon request.
7. Shall serve as a member on the Committee on Rules and Procedures.
8. This shall not be a paid position.

S. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Parliamentary. The Parliamentary:

1. Shall be a currently elected Senator appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 - i. Can be confirmed by the Senate in the session prior to the one they shall serve.
2. Shall act as a liaison between the Executive and Legislative branches by working alongside the Chief of Staff.
3. Shall update the Office of the Speaker on local, state, and federal laws that impact the functions of Student Government Association.
4. Shall act as a liaison between the Judicial and Legislative branches alongside the Clerk of the Court in reviewing and archiving court opinions and documents.
5. Shall schedule, direct, and organize all community service events conducted by the Senate.
6. Shall collect, record, and verify all community service forms turned in by Senator at the direction of the Speaker.
7. Shall ensure assist the Sergeant-at-Arms, in ensuring that members follow Robert's Ruled of Order and disseminate procedures of the Senate.
8. Shall work with the Election Commissioner or Clerk of the Senate in archiving legislation, documents, recordings, election materials, or any other materials in Office of Speaker and Founder Memorial Library.
9. Shall maintain a documented record of the history, activities, and business of Student Government Association and be a source of information for those who request it.
10. Shall collect, record, and verify all Senator outreach campaigns to their respective constituencies.
11. Shall be a resource of information on past activities and business of the Student Government Association.
12. Shall serve on the Rules and Procedures Committee.
13. Shall be a paid position.

T. The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk:

1. Shall be responsible for the public transparency, upkeep, and maintenance of all Senate Records, including all official correspondence and online live-stream recordings of all meetings, discussions, and votes on all legislation and candidates alike via shortened minutes* that log votes cast and the recording and public transcripts to NIU's Student Organization Platform as well as contacting the office of Web and Internal Communications to put them on the NIU Website.

- i. Shortened Minutes will still be uploaded in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, complete with attendance records, vote counts, and a brief summary of agenda items rather than a full transcription.
 2. Shall work directly with the Speaker and all other members of the Office of the Speaker to maintain order and function for the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association.
 3. Shall report to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker primarily and assist with any administrative responsibilities for the Legislative Branch or tasks given by Senate Leadership.
 4. Shall be the custodian of the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, working directly with the Vice President to ensure the governing documents are up to date and in good order.
 5. Shall be responsible for updating the Student Government Association's Page on the designated NIU Student Organization Platform.
 6. Shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote.
 7. If the Senate is not in session, the Speaker reserves the right to appoint the Clerk without a vote by the Senate. The Clerk shall be an unpaid position if appointed while Senate is not in session and will be updated to a paid position once Senate is in session and the Clerk is confirmed by the Senate.
 8. Shall see to upholding Robert's Rules of Order by facilitating the anonymity of all votes cast, respectively, in a consistent way.
 9. Shall be a paid position.
- U. The Office of the Speaker is the office that contains the Speaker of the Senate and their appointed positions who work and execute the duties required by their positions.
1. All positions that the Speaker of the Senate may appoint such as: Deputy Speaker, Clerk of the Senate, Parliamentarian, or the Sergeant-at-Arms fall under this Office.
 2. The Speaker shall oversee the activities of the officers in the Office.
 3. The Deputy Speaker shall oversee the Clerk of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian, and the Sergeant-at-Arms. The Parliamentarian shall reside at the bottom.
 4. Unless specified otherwise, references to the Office of the Speaker shall assume to include the Speaker of the Senate and any other appointed officers.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Speaker of the Senate and the Vice President remove all references to the Sergeant-At Arms in the SGA Constitution and SGA Bylaws if they appear anywhere else; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, such removal of reference shall be replaced by the Parliamentarian if not already included.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday January 30th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57019

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to update expectations and consequences for paid SGA officials

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association’s (SGA) is committed to transparency and ensuring uniformity in standards for all members who are apart from SGA, paid and unpaid; and

WHEREAS, the 57th Session passed legislation revising grace period timelines and proper enforcement of GPA provisions as the continuation of a student’s education is paramount to the university’s stated objectives and a student’s quality of life; and

WHEREAS, it should be made more explicit in SGA’s Bylaws to have proper enforcement and statements of the same provisions that SGA maintains for student organizations to ensure that the academic journey is never compromised; and

WHEREAS, the current SGA Bylaws states that any person, elected or appointed, and paid from the student activity monies is hired by the university, yet it does not state if said elected official, when fired by the university, is also stripped of their responsibilities, duties, and privileges of said positions; and

WHEREAS, it stands to reason that if the University with a proper human resources department finds reason to fire any paid Student Government Association official for any fire-able that they would uphold any other student employee of this university, then it stands to reason that Senate’s bar of ethics and conduct is also breached and should warrant the individual’s automatic removal of office independent of Senate resolution for removal; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association oversees all student organizations and therefore there is a greater element of responsibility, oversight, and ethics; and

WHEREAS, ensuring SGA paid officials only focus on their duties promotes transparency in policy actions but also secures their attention since it is difficult for students to provide attention to different organizations at once; and

WHEREAS, these revisions ensure that future candidates for office acknowledge and uphold these provisions but also provide a level of good faith and transparency to the student organizations that SGA aims to serve; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association officials aim to be a representative of the entire student body and so must ensure that all decisions, actions and so forth are done without any particular organization benefit, especially ones they are a part of and such violations are grounds for removal; 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 CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATION

Section 1 Qualifications for Office

- A. To hold any elected or appointed position in the SGA, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 during tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University. This shall apply to all officers, senators, and representatives of the SGA. In addition, to hold the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or any other paid SGA position, qualifications for office must be met by a candidate/elected individual prior to taking office but need not necessarily be met at the time of candidacy. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet all qualifications for office by the time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. To hold any elected or appointed paid position in the SGA, a student may not hold any executive board position of any type in any type of student organization. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet this provision for office by the time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.
- C. Those seeking the office of Student trustee must have met minimum State of Illinois requirements for the position by the time of taking office. Each year the Board of Elections chairperson is advised to review the most current requirements before elections. Current requirements are as follows: “The student member must be a resident of this State, must have and maintain a grade point average that is equivalent to at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and must be a full-time student enrolled at all times during their term of office except for that part of the term which follows the completion of the last full regular semester of the succeeding academic year at the university.”
- D. By assuming office, students agree to abide by the Northern Illinois University Student Code of Conduct as adopted by the SGA. The adopted version shall be referred to as the “SGA Code of Conduct”. Infractions of this policy shall be voted upon by the Senate, in accordance with the sanctions defined in the Glossary, Appendix A of the bylaws, for purposes of discipline within SGA. Infractions must be related to one’s position as a member of SGA, as determined by the Senate. These decisions are separate from, in addition to, and do not negate any actions taken by the NIU Student Conduct office, or by other legal offices, entities, or departments. Appeals of these decisions will be heard by the SGA Supreme Court, which will deliver a final ruling on a case-by-case basis. All policies in the NIU Student Code of Conduct shall be adopted, unless the Senate votes to exclude any part of it or introduces a new policy. The Supreme Court shall review the NIU Student Code of Conduct at least every two (2) calendar years in accordance with the Supreme Court Code of Procedures and make recommendations to exclude or include policies. Changes to the SGA code of conduct must be approved by the Senate by a two-thirds vote and will be reflected in Appendix B of the bylaws. Additions may not violate any university, local, state, or federal laws, policies, guidelines, or regulations and may not be discriminatory in nature.

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

Section 2 Expectations for Office

- A. Once employed, a student is expected to follow all SGA Bylaws requirements, university and department policies and procedures. This includes acting in accordance with the Illinois Civil Service Statue and Rules (Chapter VI, Section 250.70) and University Policies, The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act ("SOEEA"), Student Employment Policies, and General Employment Policies. "Hiring department" refers to the office of the Dean of Students and the Division of Student Affairs; and "supervisor" refers to the Student Government Association Advisor and their reporting line(s) (i.e., Dean of Students).
- B. Employee Ethics Expectations include working with honesty, integrity, and transparency. A student employee shall make every reasonable attempt to fulfill their duties in good faith and with the best interest of the student body in mind. They shall also conduct themselves in a reputable manner, even when off duty, as they always represent SGA. Further, they shall maintain a very clear separation between personal opinions or interests and the SGA's, meaning they shall not leverage the influence of their position to further any personal or political agenda. They shall not misuse, mismanage, or misappropriate their position or equipment, facilities, or funds of the SGA. They shall not bestow favors, make undue use or influence of the power of office, or offer special considerations of any kind in exchange for anything of material or intrinsic value. No student employee may use their position or privilege to benefit any student organization they have membership of.
- C. Should any paid SGA official who secured their position via election, appointment, or otherwise, fail to maintain the qualifications set by these Bylaws or is fired by any fire-able offense by the university, they should automatically be stripped of their position and it's respective duties and privileges of that office immediately without needing to be removed by the Senate. Failure to turn over equipment or any other materials to Student Involvement and Student Government Association upon termination of their position should be handled in accordance with established procedures.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the stipulations regarding serving on the executive board of another student organization are not applicable to currently serving Student Government Association officials of the 57th Session; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, this stipulation regarding serving on the executive board of another student organization shall be enforced immediately by virtue of requiring it for the Spring 2026 Student Government Association elections.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday January 30th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57020

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to clarify the Code of Procedures

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part I, Article V, §1.C of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the SGA can adopt a modified version of the Northern Illinois University Student Code of Conduct which will govern the conduct of student government officials; and

WHEREAS, if there are violations, it is up to Seante to remove the student government official from office but have the right to appeal to the NIU Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the Appendix A, Glossary terms in the SGA Bylaws contains contradictory clauses that state the SGA Code of Conduct is not separate from the NIU Student Code of Conduct, but it does have exceptions; and

WHEREAS, no student at Northern Illinois University is above any code of conduct, imposed by laws or regulations of the university, and student government official’s positions should not automatically grant them exceptions or special routes to escape accountability; and

WHEREAS, if there are violations and a student government official feels the need to appeal, they should go through already established procedures that all students go through; and

WHEREAS, the revisions of these sections can improve accountability and transparency between Student Government Association and the NIU Student Body it aims to serve; 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 V

CANIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

Section 1

Qualifications for Office

- A. To hold any elected or appointed position in the SGA, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or criminal misconduct with the University, and the student must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 during tenure in office or be in their first semester at the University. This shall apply to all officers, senators, and representatives of the SGA. In

addition, to hold the office of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or any other paid SGA position, qualifications for office must be met by a candidate/elected individual prior to taking office but need not necessarily be met at the time of candidacy. However, if a candidate/elected individual fails to meet all qualifications for office by the time they are to assume office, they shall not assume their office. Instead, the office shall be considered vacated and shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

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

~~C. By assuming office, students agree to abide by the Northern Illinois University Student Code of Conduct. as adopted by the SGA. The adopted version shall be referred to as the “SGA Code of Conduct”. Infractions of this policy shall be voted upon by the Senate, in accordance with the sanctions defined in the Glossary, Appendix A of the Bylaws, for purposes of discipline within SGA. Infractions must be related to one’s position as a member of SGA, as determined by the Senate. These decisions are separate from, in addition to, and do not negate any actions taken by the NIU Student Conduct office, or by other legal offices, entities, or departments. Appeals of these decisions will be heard by the SGA Supreme Court, which will deliver a final ruling on a case-by-case basis. All policies in the NIU Student Code of Conduct shall be adopted, unless the Senate votes to exclude any part of it or introduces a new policy. The Supreme Court shall review the NIU Student Code of Conduct at least every two (2) calendar years in accordance with the Supreme Court Code of Procedures and make recommendations to exclude or include policies. Changes to the SGA code of conduct must be approved by the Senate by a two-thirds vote and will be reflected in Appendix B of the bylaws. Additions may not violate any university, local, state, or federal laws, policies, guidelines, or regulations and may not be discriminatory in nature.~~

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

APPENDIX A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The definitions laid out in this Glossary shall be used for reference only and are not policy. All definitions in the Constitution and Bylaws of the SGA shall supersede those listed here.

Abuse of the Privileges of Office: Using the position that one holds within the SGA to benefit, personally, whether in part or in whole. Examples include but are not limited to; the misuse of confidential information to which one has access only in their official capacity; and the use of one’s official title and/or designation in personal communications.

Academic Misconduct: As defined under the NIU Student Code of Conduct.

Amendment: Changes to the Constitution, Bylaws, or another governing document. Amendments are direct edits to the text of the document, rather than addendums, and replace the previous version.

Bill: A bill is a piece of legislation written to affect change within the SGA regarding organizational events, governing documents, or internal resources. The various purposes of a bill are as follows: Amend the SGA Bylaws, approve and disburse funds, recognize student organizations, or to be the vehicle for legislation that may not be considered a resolution. A bill requires a majority vote of those Senators present and voting for passage, except in situations where the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority.

Board of Elections: The Board of Elections (BOE) is tasked with developing protocols for the SGA elections and overseeing their execution. It is comprised of five members, plus two alternates, who are nominated and appointed by the Senate. Requirements and duties may be found in Part II, Article II, Section 5 of the Bylaws. See “Election Commission” for further information.

Bylaws: Bylaws detail the authority of each campus leader or organization as well as checks and balances. They provide a process by which all powers vested by the Constitution of the SGA shall be executed and specify the way the Senate will exercise its powers as the legislative body of the SGA.

Campaigning: A series of coordinated activities designed to achieve a political goal. The activities may include, but are not limited to, public speaking, demonstrating, and soliciting support from NIU students. These activities as they relate to SGA elections are governed by the SGA Bylaws and overseen by the Board of Elections.

CODE Training: CODE Training is the conversations on diversity and equity.

Constitution: The Constitution is the SGA’s primary governing document. It details the requirements and duties of each position in each of the three branches of the SGA. It also includes the election policy, definitions of important concepts, and removal from office, referenda, and amendment procedures.

Criminal Behavior: Charges filed by the State of Illinois against an individual pursuant to the Illinois Criminal Code, (720 ILCS 5/1 through 5/49-6, inclusive). The SGA Senate’s disciplinary actions function independently from any other charges, sanctions, or discipline that an individual may face, criminally or civilly.

Election Commission: Includes the Board of Elections, Election Commissioner, and Deputy Election Commissioner.

Election Commissioner: The Election Commissioner is the primary decision-maker for the Election Commission. They are tasked with hiring, supervising, and processing payment for all poll workers; issuing sanctions to candidates; and holding executive candidate debate(s) in the weeks preceding the week of Spring Elections, among other duties.

Executive Branch: The Executive Branch is the primary decision-making body of the SGA. All executive ability shall be vested in the President, and the Executive Branch shall assist in the carrying out of these duties. It is one of three SGA branches, comprised of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Student Trustee, Chief of Staff, and the Cabinet of Directors. President, Vice President, Student Trustee, and Treasurer are elected positions. All others are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.

Failure to Keep Accurate

Records: Neglecting to maintain information in a way that is consistent with accepted practices consistent with that individual's job description, for example, failing to submit regular staff reports.

Financial Misconduct: Any misappropriation, mismanagement, waste, or theft of finances for personal gain or which is inconsistent with the mission of the SGA.

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the SGA and of all organizations and departments that receive SGA funding will run from July 1 until June 30 of the following year.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): A law that gives citizens the right to access information from their government. It allows members of the public to request data like email transmissions, Teams messages, or other conversations about public SGA business. These requests must pass through the NIU FOIA office, which will decide if they are reasonable and may or may not grant them.

Impeachment: Impeachment is used as a synonym for removal from office. Student organizations typically use this term, while SGA uses removal. See "removal."

Judicial Branch: One of three SGA branches, also called the Supreme Court. It is comprised of five justices, one of whom is the Chief Justice and one of whom is the Clerk of the Court. The Judicial Branch shall rule on the constitutionality of a disputed action of an SGA-recognized organization and interpret constitution and bylaws of SGA-recognized organizations, among other duties. See Article V, Section I of the Constitution.

Legislative

Branch: This branch consists of the SGA Senate. The Senate's primary function is to govern all aspects of the Student Government Association and University policy and to legislate on matters pertaining to student interest.

Neglect of Duty: Failing to complete the duties of an individual's job consistent with their job description and duties as outlined in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

Petition for Removal: A Petition for Removal is used to communicate a desire to remove any officer; senator; SGA representative; justice; or student representative appointed or elected by any portion of the student body and may only be introduced and heard by the Senate.

Petition: A Petition is a written request from the Student Government Association Senate for a change in NIU policy that affects the NIU student body. The petition is rarely used because its intended purpose is to show Senate support for extraordinary circumstances. This is evidenced by the fact that petitions must be voted upon at two consecutive Senate meetings and must pass with at least a two-thirds vote of the Senate on both occasions.

President of the SGA: The President is the head of the SGA. Their primary duty is to act as chief spokesperson and liaison for the SGA in all matters inside and outside of the University community and with the administration. A complete list of duties may be found in the Constitution.

Proposed Resolution: A resolution shall be referred to as a "proposed resolution" until it has been passed by the Senate.

Recognition: In the context of student organizations, recognition means that an organization has been accepted by the Senate as an officially SGA-approved organization. Organizations with this designation who meet the requirements are eligible for benefits of SGA recognition.

Referenda: During campus-wide elections, the Senate can place referenda on the election ballot. Referenda are polls of the student body regarding policy decisions made by university committees or governing bodies. For the rules of placing a referendum on the ballot, refer to Article VIII of the SGA Constitution. In addition to those rules, all referenda must be passed two weeks prior to the designated date of when the ballots will be printed. All referenda shall be passed with a two-thirds majority vote by the Senate. Within two days of the passing of the referenda, the Speaker of the Senate must send the approved wording to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for final approval.

Removal: Removal from one's position prior to the expiration of their term based on a typed Petition for Removal brought to the Senate alleging specific misconduct and signed by 7 (seven) members of the Senate. Considered the most severe sanction imposed, it should be used sparingly and includes the removal of pay. This action is available against any member of SGA.

Resolution: A Senate Resolution is to convey the feelings of the Senate on any issue that is not required to be submitted as a bill. For example, if the Senate wished to oppose or support any University policy or the actions of an organization, a resolution would be in order. Additionally, resolutions are used as follows: consent of the Senate for appointments, ratify amendments of the Student Government Association Constitution, amend the Senate Operating Rules, and remove a person from office. A resolution requires a majority vote of those Senators present and voting for passage, except in situations where the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority.

Robert's Rules of Order: Robert's Rules of Order are a set of speaking and behavioral rules used during some SGA meetings, such as Senate meetings. They provide a standard for formal meetings and encourage dignified behavior and structure. SGA shall follow the most up-to-date version of Robert's Rules.

Senate: See "Legislative Branch."

Senate Operating Manual: The Operating Manual, or Senate Operating Rules, is a guide for the legislative branch. It includes descriptions of positions and committees, and important rules and procedures that senators must follow.

SGA: Northern Illinois University Student Government Association. Unless otherwise noted, the acronym "SGA" shall apply only to the NIU SGA. If a title in an SGA document is prefaced by this acronym, the title shall be assumed to refer to the SGA, even when the prefix is not used. For example, "SGA Treasurer" and "Treasurer" are to be synonymous, unless otherwise noted. Prior to 2019, SGA was called the Student Association, or SA. These titles are synonymous.

SGA Code of Conduct: The version of the NIU Student Code of Conduct adopted by the SGA. This is not a separate document. Refer to the NIU Student Code of Conduct and use as applicable. Exceptions and additions can be found in Appendix B of the bylaws.

SGA Official Advisor: Also called NIU Advisor. This person is a full-time staff member whose role is to provide support and advice to all branches of the SGA in the areas of organizational management, budget management, and strategic planning.

Students' Legal Assistance (SLA): The role of SLA as it pertains to SGA is to provide legal advice and assistance, and to represent students in court when necessary and appropriate.

Speaker of the Senate: The Speaker is the spokesperson of the Senate. They are elected by the Senate and serve a one-year term. Their duties are to enforce all SGA rules within the Legislative Branch, appoint Senators to Senate Committees, prepare and publish agendas of Senate meetings, including attendance records and minutes, and to moderate Senate meetings.

Statute: A bill that has been passed by the Senate shall be referred to as a statute.

Student Activity Fee: A fee charged to all undergraduate, graduate, and professional students each academic term, over and above tuition, and room and board expenses. It is the primary funding source for the NIU SGA and is allocated to support student organizations, student government, and other initiatives to support NIU student life.

If there is any inconsistency between this definition and that used by the NIU Bursar's Office, the NIU Bursar's Office definition controls.

Student Government Association: See "SGA."

Student Organization: A student organization at NIU requires a faculty advisor and at least three members. However, SGA documents referring to student organizations shall mean SGA-recognized student organizations (see "recognition").

Supreme Court of the SGA: See "Judicial Branch".

Suspension: An interim sanction, applicable to any officer of SGA, where one is suspended from their job duties pending review. This does not affect pay. Two-thirds majority required.

Verbal

Warning: A formal rebuke by the Senate often considered the lowest sanction. No removal from SGA position. This action is available against all SGA personnel, and usually involves an isolated incident or behavior that can be easily corrected. Simple majority required.

Veto: The power vested in the SGA President to cancel or postpone the decisions or enactments of the SGA Senate. Procedures for implementing such an action, and the Senate's power to override a veto, are found in the SGA Constitution.

Viewpoint Neutrality: A concept, rooted in the First Amendment, which prohibits the SGA from favoring one viewpoint over another regarding the same topic. The SGA must avoid biased decisions in all instances, including but not limited to student organization recognition, hiring, and appointment confirmations. It must, especially, be applied when the SGA allocates funds.

Written Warning: A stern rebuke by the Senate where the accused offender stands in the well of the Senate and the Senate declares them guilty of misconduct. This type of sanction will usually require the accused to take corrective action to remedy their behavior. Considered a step above a verbal warning. No removal from SGA position. This action is available against all SGA personnel. Simple majority required.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday January 30th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57021

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to further 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, it is of the interest of Student Government Association to know who are all executive board positions for student organizations to better facilitate communication and ensure students are able to know who to contact; 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 **must** also **have three (3)** 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 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.
- D. Every organization shall have a minimum of one (1) officer who will be designated as the President.
- E. All student organizations must have an active membership that consists exclusively of currently registered

students, staff, or faculty of Northern Illinois University.

- F. 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.
- G. 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 elected 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.
- H. 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. All recognized student organizations must add all members of their executive boards, both positions SGA requires and recognized by their constitutions, to NIU's Student Organization Platform. This process is to be facilitated by Student Involvement and the Organization Oversight Committee during the Annual Review process and during the academic year.
- C. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU's Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
 - 1. No individual shall occupy more than one (1) position on a student organization's executive board.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Organizations must participate in, or attend any required training outlined in the Student Organization Handbook.
- G. 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.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday January 30th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57024

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

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

WHEREAS, Arthur Kucharzyk is running to represent the College of Health and Human Sciences; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the College of Health and Human Sciences bloc; and

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

Arthur Kucharzyk

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.