

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 01.30.2026
- 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)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old 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. SR57028: A resolution to appoint a Senator
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SB57022: A bill to restructure Executive Branch Directorships
  - B. SB57023: A bill to adjust SGA Committees
  - C. SB57024: A bill to clarify and codify Senator removal
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: A**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57018**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

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**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 55<sup>th</sup> Session and was not occupied since it was not deemed important by 56<sup>th</sup> Session Speaker Manny Corpuz and 57<sup>th</sup> 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 56<sup>th</sup> Session; and

WHEREAS, compared to the more extensive duties and responsibilities of the Parliamentary which, although unfilled during the 57<sup>th</sup> 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 Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian:
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 Rules 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*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author: Speaker Gonzalez**

**First Reading**

Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57019**

**Fifty-Seventh Session**

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**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 57<sup>th</sup> 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, 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. 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.

## 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.
- 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.

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author: Speaker Gonzalez**

**First Reading**

Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57020**  
**Fifty-Seventh Session**

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**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*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: D**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57021**

**Fifty-Seventh Session**

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**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:
- Organizations may place restrictions on members for not having good conduct with the organization or good standing with NIU.
  - Social fraternities and sororities may select members based on sex, per exemptions under Title IX laws.
  - Student organizations that serve as governing bodies may be allowed to restrict membership to those elected from the constituent groups.
  - 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.
  - 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. Exceptions can be made upon consultation with Student Involvement.
- C. Changes in membership, officers, advisors, and contact information must be updated in NIU's Student Organization Platform anytime there is a change.
- No individual shall occupy more than one (1) position on the same 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:
- Changes that restrict or broaden NIU student membership
  - 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*

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez  
**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57028**  
**Fifty–Seventh Session**

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**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 Seante; 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.*

**New Business**  
**Agenda Item: A**

**First Reading**  
Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Author:** President Rivera, Speaker Gonzalez  
**Sponsor:** President Rivera, Speaker Gonzalez

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57022**  
**Fifty–Seventh Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to restructure Executive Branch directorships

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the goals of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Student Government Association (SGA) is to streamline processes and reduce SGA bureaucracy whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Student Government Association recognized the need to broaden the scope of responsibilities and duties for Directors to empower them to perform wide initiatives, projects, and lead their respective areas then how it currently does; and

WHEREAS, President Jones during the fall semester initially had presented draft revisions of the changes; and

WHEREAS, President Rivera has reviewed and approved further revisions from there; and

WHEREAS, by having the President review and make changes, it means that these revised responsibilities and duties for Directors have the backing of the Office of the President, but ensures that they will be carried out faithfully and do not impede the workflow of the Presidents Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, prior to the 56<sup>th</sup> Session, the Director of Academic Affairs was terminated due to low workflow and the positions being vacant for considerable periods; and

WHEREAS, during a chance conversation with the Office of the Provost during the 56<sup>th</sup> Session, they mentioned the need to bring back the Director of Academic Affairs; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2025 during the first Faculty Senate meeting of the Fall 2025 semester, Speaker Gonzalez spoke of the Student Government Associations commitment to education and academics at the University; and

WHEREAS, the revisions merged similar provisions of current directors to make it more succinct and shorten the overall sections to make it easier for the public to vote and understand the positions; and

WHEREAS, by consolidating the provisions of the previous Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs, without sacrificing environmental provisions, the academic affairs comport was able to be highlighted and seen as necessary by both President Rivera and Speaker Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, by eliminating specific statues and events, the Directors have more room to initiate other programs but also prevent issues if they fail to meet them, especially if circumstances were outside of their control that led to the impact; 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  
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Section 4  
Student Government Association Cabinet**

- A. The President appoints the Cabinet, which exists for the purpose of assisting the President in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. The SGA Cabinet shall consist of the President, Chief of Staff, and all paid Directors in the Executive Branch. The President may add the other elected members of the Executive Branch to the cabinet as members.
- B. All Directors shall be appointed by the President (or Vice President at the discretion of the President and confirmed by the Senate. No SGA official, besides officers elected through the spring elections, shall be paid without being confirmed by the Senate. Upon election in the spring, the President-elect shall have the ability to appoint members of the cabinet for the following session. The Senate in session at the time of a cabinet appointment shall conduct a confirmation hearing and vote. The President shall make every effort to fill cabinet vacancies as they arise. If a position remains vacant for more than eight (8) weeks while the Senate is in session, the President shall submit a written rationale to the Senate that addresses their plan to find a qualified applicant for the position. Directorship applications will close when there are six (6) Senate meetings remaining in the Senate session and no more applicants will be heard by the Senate, except for appointments for the following session made by the President-elect.
- C. The Cabinet shall be managed by the Chief of Staff and shall report to the President. All Cabinet members, regardless of their position:
  - 1. Shall attend University functions where SGA attendance is needed at the direction of the President.
  - 2. Shall assist in the transition of any new staff as needed.
  - 3. Shall maintain scheduled office hours as set by the Chief of Staff.
  - 4. Shall keep office hours, defined as work conducted during the normal business hours of the Student Government Association.
  - 5. Shall participate in workshops, trainings, and retreats as directed by the President.
  - 6. Shall work and hold office hours when the Senate is not regularly meeting, such as between semesters, as directed by the President. These work periods shall not be exempt from expectations to produce weekly staff reports.
  - 7. Shall attend meetings as directed by the President or Chief of Staff and submit weekly staff reports so they can be available upon request. ~~weekly staff meetings, prepare weekly written staff reports to be given to the Chief of Staff to be placed on the SGA website, and present a minimum of one (1) report to the Senate each month either in writing or in person. In the event the Director cannot attend a Senate meeting, the Rules and Procedures Committee and the Chief of Staff must approve the written report prior to their absence.~~
  - 8. Shall perform other tasks as specified by the President.
  - 9. ~~May appoint a committee or volunteers, with the approval of the President, to assist in the execution of the duties. If given specific duties and hold office hours, volunteers may be appointed by the Director as a Deputy Director with the approval of the President. These individuals are not members of the Cabinet, will not receive pay, and are to be supervised by the Director.~~
  - 10. Graduate assistants shall be eligible to apply for positions in the Executive Cabinet. If hired, they shall receive a comparable University graduate assistant stipend.
  - 11. Submit a written petition to both the Chief of Staff and SGA Adviser to overrule any Executive Order that is deemed unnecessary, inappropriate, or unconstitutional. A hearing is to be held run by the Chief of Staff or SGA Adviser if the position is vacant. Sixty percent (60%) votes are needed to overturn any Executive Order.

1. If the vote fails, the opposition may write a petition to the Supreme Court of SGA to hear the case for overturning the Executive Order.
- D. The Chief of Staff, working under the direction of the President, is responsible for acting as the Student Government Association's chief administrative officer with duties including oversight of the executive cabinet and staff, office maintenance, and assisting the President. The Chief of Staff shall
1. Provide oversight, direction, and management to the executive staff by conducting weekly staff meetings, coordinating the overall activities of the Cabinet, assigning tasks, collecting weekly staff reports, assigning staff members Senate meetings to attend, and meeting bi-weekly with individual staff members one on one.
  2. Assist the President in the execution of the duties; this may include responding to inquiries made to the President.
  3. Assist the President in appointing students to serve on university committees and coordinate oversight of these appointments.
  4. Assist the President in staffing University events where SGA representation is needed, including but not limited to open houses.
  5. Assist the President in coordinating staff evaluations for Senate review.
  6. Assist the President in preparing the Executive Cabinet for Senate review and approval.
  7. Act as a liaison among the President, Vice President, Chief Justice and Speaker of the Senate to ensure that all legislation is signed and submitted to appropriate parties.
  8. Coordinate with the Student Government Association Office Manager to ensure staff are provided access to computers, office supplies, and the copy machine and that the SGA office is presentable and aesthetically pleasing.
  9. Coordinate and keep track of all SGA inventories, including, but not limited to, SGA computers, cameras, printers, fax machines, laptops, and chairs.
  10. Summarize the weekly staff reports into a weekly report to present to the President.
  11. Update the Student Government Association staff manual annually.
  12. Shall notify the President within twenty-four (24) hours of when they receive notice to overturn an Executive Order. They shall organize a hearing within eight (8) business days and preside over a hearing on the matter and will not have a vote unless in the case of a tie.
- E. Director of Academic and Campus Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of staff promoting student wellbeing pertaining to academics, environmental quality, and general wellbeing. The Director supports campus initiatives and collaborates when necessary to campus partners.
1. The Director shall coordinate with all SGA representatives serving on academic committees at their own direction or by the Speaker of the Senate or President.
  2. The Director shall oversee new or current SGA environmental initiatives, goals, or project in conjunction with the Academic and Campus Affairs Committee. This includes but not limited to Earth Week events, sustainability and recycling, green initiatives. Participation can also include other student organizations, University subdivisions, or community partners such as the City of DeKalb.
  3. The Director shall serve on the Provost Student Advisory Committee and any other committee that serves the academic interests of the student population that require SGA representation.
  4. The Director shall serve on Faculty Senate along with other SGA representatives. They shall also act as a liaison to all college councils and departments' student advisory committees and assist in the establishment of such committee if a department does not already have one and the students see fit for one. The Director shall also serve as liaison to academic offices including, but not limited to:
    1. University Honors Program
    2. CHANCE Program
    3. Business Passport
    4. Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL)
    5. Orientation and First Year Programs
  5. The Director shall monitor policies related to their duties and make recommendations to the President and the Campus and Academic Affairs Committee as appropriate.

6. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Campus and Academic Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.
- F. The Director of Athletics shall work under the Direction of the President and Chief of Staff to represent all student-athlete interests, promote athletic programs, and serve as a liaison between SGA and Athletics'. The aim is to relay student-athletic concerns while promoting inclusive, engaging, and competitive campus supports culture. Other responsibilities include:
1. The Director shall represent the Student Government Association in any committee or meeting with NIU Athletics including, but not limited to, varsity, club, or intramural sport teams. The purpose is to communicate student-athlete concerns, provide suggestions, and relay feedback to SGA Leadership.
  2. The Director shall collaborate with student organizations and athletics to promote initiatives, engagement, or support to athletic programs.
  3. The Director shall be knowledgeable, monitor, and review SGA or University policies and procedures and make recommendations that impact student-athletes, campus sport environment. They shall also be informed and keep up with any legal statutes proposed by local, State, or federal legislatures.
  4. The Director shall work with the Director of Public Affairs to highlight and promote NIU Athletics.
  5. The Director may attend any SGA Committee as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide reports or hear opinions but cannot participate in discussion or debate unless it relates to athletics, student wellness, or campus engagement.
- G. The Director of Student Life & Greek Affairs, working the direction of the President and Chief of Staff to a bridge between SGA, campus offices, and student organizations—ensuring that students' needs related to housing, safety, financial services, health, and Greek life are heard and addressed. The Director also helps create events and initiatives that foster belonging, leadership, and engagement across campus. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall serve as a liaison to the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC), Pan Hellenic Association (PHA), and the United Greek Council (UGC) student organizations. This communicates concerns from this constituency including relaying the information to the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
  2. The Director shall act as the primary contact for University offices that impact student life such as Act as SGA's primary contact for university offices that impact student life, including Housing and Dining, Student Financial Aid, University Police, Judicial Affairs, and other student support services (such as Health Services, Legal Assistance, Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Office, and Campus Child Care).
  3. The Director shall act as a liaison with Campus Activities Board and the rest of Student Involvement for planning and executing student programming in a consistent manner and messaging. They should also be concerned with overall student engagement and activities.
  4. The Director shall serve on the Student Conduct Board and any other committees that align with Student Life and services. This includes advocating students' concerns regarding parking and transportation and coordinating with SGA representatives on the Campus Parking Committee.
  5. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Campus Activities Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.
- H. The Director of Organization Development shall work under the direction of the Vice President and assist in the oversight of student organizations including building stronger outreach, leadership, and operational success. This ensures that student organizations grow while remaining compliant with university policies, determining funding options, and development opportunities. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall be informed of all University and SGA policies and procedures related to student organizations. Along with the Vice President and Organization Oversight Committee, shall enforce those requirements or reach out to affected organizations so they can remain in good standing.
  2. The Director shall provide advice related to recruitment, retention, event planning, leadership development to student organizations. This can be in the form of one-one-one assistance or generalized

- workshops. The Director shall also provide advice related to understanding and submitting financial support by the SGA.
3. The Director shall also help student organizations in utilizing NIU's Student Organization Platform and engage in media behavior.
  4. The Director shall work with the Student Involvement and/or the Division of Student Affairs to recommend student organization policy changes such as the Student Organization Handbook.
  5. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Organization Oversight Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.
- I. The Director of Public Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff to ensure effective communication between the Student Government Association and the NIU Student Body. The Director manages public messaging, media relations, and campus outreach, helping SGA maintain transparency and engagement across the community in a professional and ethical manner. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall manage and oversee SGA communication such as social media, posters, or other press releases pertaining to all branches and activities of the organization. This includes working with the President on creating, developing, and disseminating SGA promotion materials and ensuring messaging remains consistent.
  2. The Director shall monitor media channels and act as a liaison to all media, including but not limited to the Northern Star. They shall submit to the Chief of Staff and the President reports.
  3. The Director shall work with the Election Commissioner to cover SGA Election events including the SGA Debates. The Director shall also work with the Vice President for Involvement Fair coverage and providing mass messaging to student organization.
  4. The Director shall work with Student Involvement to ensure that messaging between them and SGA is consistent. This includes attending marketing related meetings as needed by Student Involvement
  5. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Public Affairs Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet, they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.
- J. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, shall champion inclusive campus environments by fostering cultural programming, supporting underrepresented populations, and monitoring policies that affect equity. The Director ensures the Student Government Association (SGA) represents diverse perspectives and actively contributes to positive campus culture change. Other provisions include:
1. The Director shall serve as a liaison to all University resource centers including, but not limited to, the Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Disability Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services, Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Undocumented Student Support Office. They shall act as a liaison to cultural student organizations to communicate concerns and activities between them and SGA Leadership.
  2. The Director shall plan, maintain, and execute cultural programming and other initiatives.
  3. The Director shall monitor and provide recommendations regarding SGA or University policies affecting underserved student populations and other stakeholders including retention and recruitment pertain to students and staff. Research and propose major cultural or equity-focused policy changes to the University via the SGA Senate.
  4. The Director shall SGA's representative on the Unity in Diversity Steering Committee and coordinate SGA representation on university-level Presidential Commissions dealing with minority status. They should also serve on the Affirmative Action & Diversity Resources Committee to influence institutional equity strategy.
  5. The Director shall not only attend and complete all required trainings (e.g. CODE, Title IX, Ally trainings, POWER retreat) but encourage SGA staff and members to complete these trainings and support continuous learning in DEI topics.



6. The Director shall serve as the Secretary of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, serving as a non-voting ex-officio member where attendance is mandatory. If the director fails to meet they shall be subject to the same provisions of the Senate attendance policy including absence requests.

K. The Director of Athletics and Recreation, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for serving as the senior student liaison to Interscholastic Athletics. The Director of Athletics and Recreation shall:

1. Serve on the university's Athletic Board and coordinate additional Student Government Association representatives on the board.
2. Serve as the Student Government Association senior liaison to the Office of Interscholastic Athletics to increase game day experiences and attendance at NIU home events.
3. Serve on the Sports Club Council through Campus Recreation.
4. Serve on the External Affairs subcommittee of the Athletics Board.
5. Attend regular weekly meetings with Athletics' marketing staff.
6. Coordinate and host Huskie Pride Day to increase school spirit and participation in athletic events.

L. The Director of Governmental Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for all off campus and external relations for the Student Government Association, including community, state, and national relationships. The Director of Governmental Affairs shall:

1. Serve as the Student Government Association's voting representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education's Student Advisory Committee and represent the interests of the students of Northern Illinois University to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.
  2. Working with the Senate Legislative Director, monitor all state and federal legislation pertaining to higher education and maintain relationships with appropriate legislators and executive officers.
  3. Maintain relations with student governments across the state, the Mid-American Conference, and thenation as appropriate and any other state or national organization.
  4. Monitor all city policy that pertains to the students of Northern Illinois University. The director shall maintain relations with City of DeKalb officials including the Mayor, Aldermen, and the City Manager.
  5. Maintain relations with community organizations and units of government as necessary including the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, the County of DeKalb, and the NIU Student Government Affairs Work Group.
  6. Work with the DeKalb registrar to host at least one voter registration drive during every semester in which there is an election. Registration drives during semesters in which there is not an election are to be held at the discretion of the Director of Governmental Affairs.
  7. Promote student voting in all local, state, and federal elections. In addition, secure at least one on campus voting site for public use to better serve disenfranchised or disconnected students and community members.
  8. Ensure full SGA support and participation in campaigns such as the Democracy Challenge, Get Out the Vote Campaign, and all other initiatives to increase election participation.
  9. Hold at least one nonpartisan meet and greet with local city and county officials, and state representatives to increase political awareness on campus and build a relationship. In order for SGA to remain neutral, this program shall always remain nonpartisan to give each party equal platform.
  10. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures Committee
1. — Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.

M. The Director of Greek Affairs, working the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for monitoring university policies pertaining to Greek life on campus, assisting Greek student groups in the development of their organizations, and serving as the liaison to the umbrella Greek organizations. The Director of Greek Affairs shall:

1. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC), the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC), Pan Hellenic Association (PHA), and the United Greek Council (UGC) student organizations.
2. Monitor university policy affecting Greek student groups and make recommendations to amend current regulations as appropriate.
3. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to the appropriate Greek Affairs university staff in the Student Involvement and Leadership Development Office. Conduct bimonthly meetings with appropriate Fraternity and Sorority Life staff.
4. Facilitate communication between the leadership of the Greek community and officials from the City of DeKalb pertaining to issues affecting the Greek Row area.
5. Work with the leadership of Greek organizations to assist them in securing adequately maintained and financed

housing for Greek organizations.

6. Sit in all council president meetings to identify issues and collaborate to resolve them.
7. Coordinate one event between all councils each semester to build community and relations between the councils and their chapters.
8. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Campus Life and Greek Affairs Senate Committee.
  1. Attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.

N. The Director of Organizational Development shall work under the direction of the Vice President and is responsible for assisting recognized student organizations in the development of outreach activities, publicity, and fundraising. The Director of Organizational Development shall

1. Provide media relations training to students and student organizations, including the utilization of NIU's Student Organization Platform and conducting interviews.
2. Knowledge about all university policies affecting student organizations including but not limited to poster policy, booking a room, and the Student Government Association financial policies.
3. Attend the Student Government Association mandatory organizational meetings and provide relevant presentations as requested by the Student Government Association Vice President.
4. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in preparation and dissemination of a Student Organization handbook that will include applicable policies and advice.
5. Advise recognized student groups on recruitment and retention techniques, leadership development opportunities, event planning, and programming.
6. Advise student groups on how to secure funding including advice on Student Government Association funding, CAB mid-level, fundraising, and corporate donations.
7. Advise student organizations on Student Government Association web policy, aid in developing web sites, and assist in the use of the university event calendar.
8. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee.
9. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President to assure the new student organization Constitutions are in accordance with the requirements as defined within the Student Government Association bylaws.
10. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Organization Oversight Committee.
  1. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.

O. The Director of Public Affairs shall work under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff and shall be responsible for communicating, on behalf of the Student Government Association, to the students of Northern Illinois University and ascertaining the concerns of the campus community. The Director of Public Affairs shall:

1. Direct communications for the Student Government Association by conducting social media promotion of the fellow Director's events, cabinet initiatives, and University initiatives.
2. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all media, including but not limited to the Northern Star, Daily Chronicle, and Midweek.
3. Monitor relevant news sources and report to the Chief of Staff any items that are of interest.
4. Coordinate promotional materials for all SGA initiatives with the President and Vice President.
5. Assist the Student Government Association Vice President in facilitating an organizational fair.
6. Serve as the Student Government Association's special events officer and organize any relevant events, as well as working with EPS and various campus offices to promote events.
7. Work with the election commissioner to set up the annual SGA Executive debate.
8. Work with the President to order and disseminate SGA promotional material to enhance and bring awareness to the SGA.
9. Draft and disseminate press releases on behalf of the Executive Cabinet.
10. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Public Affairs Committee.
  1. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.

P. The Director of Student Life, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for

monitoring and providing recommendations on all issues affecting students' quality of life, including housing, financial services, safety, healthcare, and other support services.

1. Monitor and act as the SGA liaison to university offices relating to financial services (including the Bursar's Office and Office of Student Financial Aid), Housing and Dining, offices affecting the safety and security of the campus (including Judicial Affairs and University Police), and all campus support services (including University Health Services, Students' Legal Assistance, Commuter Non-Traditional Student Office, and Campus Child Care).
2. Act as the SGA liaison to the Residence Hall Association by regularly attending RHA meetings.
3. Assist in the coordination of the annual SGA Meet and Greet.
4. Coordinate the annual Student Choice Awards in the spring semester.
5. Serve on the Student Conduct Board and the social events committee.
6. Serve on the Homecoming Steering Committee.
7. Serve in any capacity as needed for the Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards each year directed by Student Involvement.
8. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Campus Life and Greek Affairs Committee.
  1. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
9. Assist the President to coordinate SGA representation on the Campus Parking Committee.

Q. The Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for all communication, coordination, support, and work dealing with related items on behalf of the Student Government Association. The Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs shall

1. Be responsible for the coordination of environmental service projects each semester in office.
2. Support and collaborate with the University environmental groups for programming, advising, guidance, and accountability.
3. Oversee all recycling campaigns on campus, including assisting with Department and organization initiatives.
4. Serve on the NIU Green Team
5. Work with the University for the Study of the environment, sustainability, and energy to promote green initiatives for the University to enact.
6. Advocate for greener alternatives on campus to the University Administration, including offering suggestions to the University Administration on behalf of the Student Government Association to improve the university's environmental initiatives and include students in this process.
7. Collaborate with the University Administration and student body to help create a campus sustainability plan, including collaboration with all green student organizations to minimize campus waste and make the University as environmentally efficient as possible.
8. Collaborate with the Director of Governmental Affairs to bring any campus initiative to the City of DeKalb and bring initiatives found in the city's Sustainability Master Plan or discussed in the Citizen's Environmental Commission back to campus.
9. Oversee Earth Week, beginning the Monday before Earth Day.
10. Oversee Campus Sustainability Week, on or before Earth Week.
11. Serve as non-voting ex-officio member of the SGA Senate Environmental Affairs Committee.
  1. Serve as Secretary of the Committee as such attendance is required. If a director cannot not make a meeting, they are required to fill out the absence form on Huskie Hub within 48 hours of the meeting. This form is approved or denied following the same Guidelines for the Senator Absence form.
12. Collaborate with SGA Parliamentarian to provide opportunities for staff to engage in community service and community building events.

R. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working under the direction of the President and Chief of Staff, is responsible for promoting a diverse campus culture by encouraging cultural programming, ensuring support services are provided to underrepresented individuals, and monitoring policies that affect minorities. The Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall

1. Serve as the Student Government Association liaison to all cultural student organizations.
2. Promote cultural programming and encourage joint programming across cultural organizations.
3. Act as the Student Government Association's liaison to campus support services for underrepresented students.

including, but not limited to, the Center for Black Studies, Latino Resource Center, Asian American Resource Center, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, the Disability Resource Center, Military and Veteran Services, Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, International Student and Scholar Services, and the Undocumented Student Support Office.

4. Monitor and provide recommendations regarding university policies affecting minority members of the university community including the recruitment and retention of minority students, staff, and faculty.
5. Organize and chair a committee consisting of representatives from all recognized cultural student organizations to facilitate proposals to improve the quality of life for minorities on campus.
6. Serve on the Unity in Diversity Steering Committee as the Student Government Association representative.
7. Coordinate Student Government Association representation on the Presidential Commissions on the status of minorities.
8. Research and recommend major culture-related policy changes to the University via the Student Government Association Senate.

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**New Business**

**First Reading**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57023**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to adjust SGA Committees

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, one of the aims of the Student Government Association is to streamline operations and make necessary bureaucratic adjustments when necessary; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions make provisions and responsibilities of the committee clearer and reduces the overall section to make it easier to read by the public; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation and more succinct language broaden the scope of the committees, with the exception of the SGA Finance Committee and SGA Organization Oversight Committee, to a better address student needs and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the exception for the stated committees above is due to responsibilities and duties being controlled in other sections of the SGA Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, by removing duplicate language and provisions confusion is prevented and does not create undesirable circumstances and ensures standardization and centralized location in the Bylaws to reference the information.

WHEREAS, this bill is being proposed in tandem with SB5702: A bill to restructure Executive Branch directorships; and

WHEREAS, aligning the duties and responsibilities of the Standing Senate Committees and the Directorships of the President’s Cabinet allows for informed action, communication, and shared objectives; 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 3**

**Senate Committees of the Student Government Association**

**A. Committee Overview**

1. Committee overseen by the Senate shall be considered Senate Committees.

2. The Finance Committee and Board of Elections are considered Committees of the Student Government Association with different procedures than Senate Committees.
3. There shall be two committee types:
  - i. Ad hoc committees are temporary Senate committees that may be created by the Speaker with the approval of the Senate or by a majority vote of the Senate to serve a particular purpose. Ad hoc committees are all closed at the end of the session in which they were formed. The Speaker may appoint an ad-hoc committee to study any matter brought before them or the Senate that does not particularly relate to any standing committee. These committees shall consider only the matter referred to them and shall make a report to the Senate in relation to its study and subsequent findings in regard to the particular matter referred to it.
  - ii. Standing committees are created in the bylaws and exist as permanent parts of the Senate or SGA as a whole.

#### B. General Procedures

1. All standing committees of the SGA shall meet at least once every fourteen (14) calendar days when the Senate is in session and shall submit a written report of at least once a month to Speaker of the Senate. The Speaker may forward the report to the President or Chief or staff or upon request.
2. Officers of committees shall be a chair, who is the presiding officer; the vice-chair, who shall preside over the committee in the chair's absence; and a secretary, who shall keep records of the committee's meetings. The vice chair and secretary shall be appointed by the chair with the consent of the committee, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws.
3. The Chairperson of a committee shall be free to discuss any matter that concerns the committee but shall vote only in case of a tie. Although the chairperson is free to debate any matter before the committee, they shall conduct all meetings with regard for parliamentary procedures and see that order is maintained in meetings, keeping in mind they are to be conducted in an informal manner. It is the duty of the chairperson to see the committee perform its required functions. The chair shall determine the schedule for the regular meeting of the committee with its approval. The chair may call special meetings of the committee.
4. The following members of Student Government Association may attend meetings of any SGA committee and participate as a non-voting ex-officio member to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members, though they may not participate in discussion or debate: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker, Chief of Staff, and Student Trustee. The Deputy Speaker may only attend Senate committees of any type.
5. Committee action can only be taken when a quorum is reached. Quorum is more than fifty percent (50%) of the committee's current membership.
6. Unless otherwise noted elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, committees shall have a total of no less than three (3) members, not including the chair.
7. The chairperson, with a majority consent by the committee, may appoint or remove previously appointed relevant administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members as seen fit.

#### C. Senate Committees

1. The Speaker of the Senate will appoint the members of all Senate committees:
  - i. Appointed shall not require a resolution but must be made in writing.
  - ii. All Senate committees must meet a minimum of three (3) voting members, not including the chair. If the Senate does not have a large enough population to appoint three (3) voting members to a committee and a chairperson, the Speaker must either appoint themselves to sit on the committee and to meet the requirement until a new voting member can be appointed to the committee.
  - iii. The Speaker must also appoint a Chair for each committee. The Speaker will serve as Chair for each committee until a Chair is appointed. The Chair will not be included in the total count for quorum but will have the final vote in case of a tie.
2. All standing committees of the Senate shall meet at least once every fourteen (14) calendar days, when

the Senate is in session, and shall submit a report of each meeting to the Office of the Speaker.

- i. The Chair is responsible for submitting a report to the Office of the Speaker and to give the report to Senate. If the Chair is unable to give the report during Senate, the Chair must choose a committee member to provide the report or provide to the Office of the Speaker a written report to be read aloud during Senate.
  - ii. Failure to give a report or meet in the prescribed timeframe shall result in the Chair and/or members being called into Rules and Procedures Committee for a reconciliation of grievances.
3. The Chair shall be responsible for the distribution of the agenda to OMA regulations. If an agenda is sent in violation of OMA regulations, the meeting shall be cancelled by the Speaker and the chair will be given a warning by the Office of the Speaker. The chair will be called to the Rules and Procedures Committee for a hearing after the 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction.
- i. The Speaker must be sent a copy of the agenda and related committee materials. This shall include but is not limited to: posters, events, minutes, funding requests, surveys etc.
  - ii. It will be the duty of the Chair to inform committee members of the cancellation due any to any reason.
4. All committee meetings shall meet in person, unless the Chair secures permission from the Speaker with sufficient reasoning.
5. The Chair can be removed by the Speaker and replaced with another if they reason that breach of conduct was made, improper procedures were followed, or other circumstances. The Chairperson can appeal the decision to the Rules & Procedure Committee for review where they can uphold removal, and even recommend removal from Senate, or reinstate the Chairperson to their position.
6. Committee Chair Meetings:
- i. Chairs will be required to attend one meeting with the Deputy Speaker each month when the Senate is in session to monitor the progress of the committees as well as encourage cooperation among the varying chairs.

#### D. Student Government Association Committees

##### 1. Board of Election

- i. The Board of Elections shall be considered a standing committee of the Student Government Association. Its procedures, organization, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined in the SGA Bylaws – Elections Policy.

##### 2. Finance Committee

- i. The Finance Committee shall be considered a standing committee of the Student Government Associations. Its procedures, organization, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined in the SGA Bylaws – Finance Policy.

#### E. Committee procedures:

##### 1. The Speaker of the Senate will appoint the members of all Senate committees:

- i. Appointed shall not require a resolution but must be made in writing.
- ii. All Senate committees must meet a minimum of three (3) voting members, not including the chair. If the Senate does not have a large enough population to appoint three (3) voting members to a committee and a chairperson, the Speaker must either appoint themselves to sit on the committee and to meet the requirement until a new voting member can be appointed to the committee.
- iii. The Speaker must also appoint a Chair for each committee. The Speaker will serve as Chair for each committee until a Chair is appointed. The Chair will not be included in the total count for quorum but will have the final vote in case of a tie.

##### 2. All standing committees of the Senate shall meet at least once every fourteen (14) calendar days, when the Senate is in session, and shall submit a report of each meeting to the Office of the Speaker.

- i. The Chair is responsible for submitting a report to the Office of the Speaker and to give the report to Senate. If the Chair is unable to give the report during Senate, the Chair must choose a committee member to provide the report or provide to the Office of the Speaker

a written report to be read aloud during Senate;

- ii. Failure to give a report or meet in the prescribed timeframe shall result in the Chair and/or members being called into Rules and Procedures Committee for a reconciliation of grievances.

3. Officers of committees shall be a chair, who is the presiding officer; the vice chair, who shall preside over the committee in the chair's absence; and a secretary, who shall keep records of the committee's meetings. The Speaker shall appoint and remove the chair when deemed necessary. The vice chair and secretary shall be appointed by the chair with the consent of the committee, except for the Committee on Rules and Procedures. The Secretary Shall be the Director to each corresponding committee. This is found under each Director Section in Article III, Section 4. If there is a Director Vacancy, the Chair may appoint a new interim Secretary upon approval of the Committee to hold the role until the director ship is filled.

4. The chairperson of a committee shall be free to discuss any matter that concerns the committee but shall vote only in the event of a tie. Although the chairperson is free to debate any matter before the committee, the chairperson shall conduct all meetings with regard for parliamentary procedure and see that order is maintained in meetings, keeping in mind meetings are to be conducted in an informal manner. It is the duty of the chairperson to see the committee perform in accordance with its required functions. The chair shall determine the schedule for regular meetings of the committee with its approval. The chair may call special meetings of the committee.

5. The chairperson, with a majority consent by the committee, may appoint or remove previously appointed relevant administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members as seen fit.

6. The following members of the Student Government Association Shall attend meetings of any Senate committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: Speaker, Deputy Speaker, President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Student Trustee.

7. Committee action can only be taken when a quorum is reached. Quorum is considered to be more than fifty percent (50%) of the committee's current voting membership.

8. The Chair shall be responsible for the distribution of the agenda to OMA regulations. If an agenda is sent in violation of OMA regulations, the meeting shall be cancelled by the Speaker and the chair will be given a warning by the Office of the Speaker. The chair will be called to the Rules and Procedures Committee for a hearing after the 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction.

- i. The Speaker must be sent a copy of the agenda and related committee materials. This shall include but is not limited to: posters, events, minutes, funding requests, surveys etc.

- ii. It will be the duty of the Chair to inform committee members of the cancellation due any to any reason.

9. All committee meetings shall meet in person, unless the Chair secures permission from the Speaker with sufficient reasoning.

#### F. Committee Chair Meetings:

1. Chairs will be required to attend one meeting with the Deputy Speaker each month when the Senate is in session to monitor the progress of the committees as well as encourage cooperation among the varying chairs.

#### G. Types of Committees:

There shall be two types of Senate committees, standing and ad hoc.

1. Ad hoc committees are temporary Senate committees that may be created by the Speaker with the approval of the Senate or by a majority vote of the Senate to serve a particular purpose. Ad hoc committees are all closed at the end of the session in which they were formed. The Speaker may appoint an ad hoc committee to study any matter brought before them or the Senate that does not particularly relate to any standing committee. These committees shall consider only the matter referred to them and shall make a report to the Senate in relation to its study and subsequent findings in regard to the particular matter referred to it.

2. Standing committees are created in the bylaws and exist as permanent parts of the Senate.



## Section 4

### Senate Standing Committee Duties and Responsibilities

Standing committees shall have a total of up to nine (9) members, including the chair and the vice-chair. The SGA Senate shall have the following standing committees:

#### A. Committee on Rules & Procedures

1. The Committee shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate with the Deputy Speaker serving as Vice-Chair. The Parliamentarian shall also be a member of the committee.
2. The Committee's shall be concerned with the enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Manual. The Committee shall also be responsible for the conduct of SGA officials and make recommendations and/or enforce disciplinary actions according to the SGA Constitution, Bylaws and Senate Operating Manual. They shall have the power to remove Senators upon proper rational and approval of the Committee.
3. The Committee shall review all legislation for consideration in the Senate, including bills, resolutions, and petitions and ensuring that it meets requirements set forth in applicable SGA governing documents. This includes but not limited to providing advice, formatting the legislation properly, or making revisions.
4. The Committee shall review with proper management of the University and their subdivisions and can review and recommend revisions to established procedures or guidelines.
5. Members of the Executive Branch may attend the committee as ex-officio members with the ability to give reports and hear opinions but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.

#### B. Committee on Organization Oversight

1. The Deputy Speaker of the Senate shall Chair the Committee. If the Deputy Speaker is vacant, then the Speaker may select another Senator or fill the positions themselves until the role is filled. If the position is not filled after three (3) weeks, the Committee shall vote to appoint a chair from within the committee or approve the Speaker to continue to fill the role.
2. The Committee shall be concerned with the oversight of all student organizations, including but not limited to recognition, Constitutional and Bylaw revisions, and ensure they abide by the Student Organization Handbook and requirements set forth in the SGA Bylaws, Student Involvement and the University. This includes making policy revisions regarding student organizations to the Senate for consideration.
3. The Committee shall provide conflict resolutions to student organizations upon written requests to the Chairperson prior to University staff intervention in the Division of Student Affairs, followed by SGA Supreme Court resolution.
4. The Committee shall work with the Vice President and Director of Organization Development regarding student organization oversight including, but not limited to, Annual Registration Process, recognition, Constitution and Bylaw revisions, and enforcement of SGA Bylaws, Organization Handbook, and University policies. Only the Director of Organization Development
5. Committee members must disclose current or previous associations in organizations requesting approval, revising Constitution and Bylaws, or hearing disciplinary conflict resolution cases.
6. One (1) university staff member from the Division of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide further guidance to the committee. Only the Director of Organization Development, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, may attend the committee as ex-officio members with the ability to give reports and hear opinions but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.

#### C. Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs

1. The Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs shall focus on the overall improvement and coordination related to activities regarding student life. This includes but is not limited to Greek Affairs and relations with student organizations.
  2. The Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs shall be concerned with developing recommendations on making this institution a more desirable one to attend. This committee shall be responsible for the advancement of the University in all areas except those that are the duty of another standing committee, including university services and policies.
  3. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of NIU students including but not limited to, Commuter students, On campus students, Greek students and their spaces.
  4. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:
    - a. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and Residential Services)
    - b. ResTech
    - c. Campus Child Care
    - d. Recreation and Wellness
    - e. Campus Dining
    - f. Campus Activities Board
    - g. Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)
    - h. Grounds
    - i. University Libraries
    - j. Tutoring
    - k. Student Involvement and Leadership Development
    - l. Student Employment
    - m. Financial Aid Office
    - n. Office of the Bursar
    - o. Study Abroad Office
    - p. Huskie Safe Line Service
  5. The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the following at least once a semester:
    - a. All Greek governing councils
    - b. The office of Student Involvement
    - c. Resident hall directors
    - d. The office of Academic Affairs
  6. Only the Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs may attend the committee as ex-officio member, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, with the ability to give reports, hear opinions, take minutes, but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.
- D. Committee on Campus and Academic Affairs
1. The Committee on Campus and Academic Affairs shall be concerned with all aspects that pertain to student wellbeing including, but not limited to, academic affairs, environmental quality, and general needs.
  2. The Committee, at the direction of the Director or Chair, must implement or use established environmental literacy plan to educate all committee members. Members must attend the program at least once a semester for the period they serve on the Committee. Anything that pertains to environmental aspects on campus such as sustainability, recycling, or green initiatives, including collaborating with student organizations, University, and campus partners are under the purview of the committee.
  3. The Committee shall oversee all areas of academic affairs at the University such as revising policies and making recommendations to appropriate University bodies. The Committee shall also receive updates pertaining to Faculty Senate, University Council from the Speaker, President, and Director of Campus and Academic Affairs upon request.

4. The Committee shall be empowered to make recommendations to the Senate for consideration based on findings by the Committee, including recommendations from the Director of Campus and Academic Affairs.

5. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:

- a. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and Residential Services)
- b. ResTech
- c. Campus Child Care
- d. Recreation and Wellness
- e. Career Services
- f. Counseling and Consultation Services
- g. Couple and Family Therapy Clinic
- h. Health Services
- i. Office of the Ombudsperson
- j. Students' Legal Assistance
- k. Campus Dining
- l. Campus Activities Board
- m. University Writing Center
- n. Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)
- o. Grounds
- p. University Libraries

6. Only the Director of Campus and Academic Affairs may attend the committee as ex-officio member, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, with the ability to give reports, hear opinions, take minutes, but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.

A. Committee on Public Affairs

1. The Committee of Public Affairs shall be concerned with the proper advertisement and publicizing the Student Government Association to students.
2. The Committee shall collaborate with other SGA committees to advertise upcoming and future SGA-sponsored events.
3. The Committee shall plan and implement community service projects for the Student Government Association to participate in.
4. The Committee shall plan and execute at least one informational campaign each year that is geared toward recruiting Senators-at-large to fill vacant seats when necessary. Campaign(s) must be submitted to the Speaker for final review prior to implementation and must not interfere with spring elections.
5. The Committee of Public Affairs shall assist the Director of Public Affairs, when applicable, in publicizing the Student Government Association and its initiatives.
6. Only the Director of Campus and Academic Affairs may attend the committee as ex-officio member, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, with the ability to give reports, hear opinions, take minutes, but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.

B. Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall be concerned with the collaboration of campus resource centers, underserved student communities, and any initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion put forth by the Student Government Association.
2. The Committee shall assist the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their initiatives and objectives, especially regarding their communication with the campus

resource centers.

3. The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the advisors of the campus resource centers outlined below in Part I, Article II, Section F.9
4. The Committee shall give a report to the Senate at least once a semester on the discussions that they have had with the resource centers outlined in Part I, Article II, Section F.9
5. The Committee will work directly with the resource centers to attend their events and support student initiatives.
6. The Committee shall work to fill all vacant Underserved Student Senate seats.
7. The Committee shall review the list in Part I, Article II, Section F.9 at least once a year to make sure all campus resource centers, and all underserved student communities are represented.
8. Only the Director of Campus and Academic Affairs may attend the committee as ex-officio member, unless specified elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws, with the ability to give reports, hear opinions, take minutes, but cannot not vote nor participate in discussion or debate of any agenda item.
9. The non-exclusive authority of the Committee will be understood to include:
  - a. Student Conduct
  - b. Disability Resource Center
  - c. Military and Veteran Services
  - d. Center for Black Studies
  - e. Latino Resource Center
  - f. Asian American Resource Center
  - g. Gender and Sexuality Resource Center
  - h. Center for Southeast Asian Studies
  - i. Center for Burma Studies
  - j. Undocumented Student Support
  - k. CHANCE Program
  - l. Campus Child Care
  - m. Recreation
  - n. Career Services
  - o. Financial Aid Office
  - p. Underserved Student Organizations

~~E. Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs~~

- ~~1. The Committee on Student Life and Greek Affairs shall be concerned with developing recommendations on making this institution a more desirable one to attend. This committee shall be responsible for the advancement of the University in all areas except those that are the duty of another standing committee, including university services and policies.~~
- ~~2. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of commuter students and any other matter that relates to commuter students.~~
- ~~3. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of residents of this campus and any other matter that relates to residents' needs.~~
- ~~4. The Committee shall be concerned with the overall improvement of the life of Greek students and the residential life on Greek Row.~~
- ~~5. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinion of the committee members: Director of Student Life, Director of Athletics and Recreation, and Director of Greek Affairs.~~
- ~~6. The Committee shall be concerned with the academic life of students and improvement of the academic policies that affect students.~~
- ~~7. The non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee will be understood to include:~~
  - ~~a. Campus housing (All residence halls and student housing operated by Housing and Residential Services)~~

- b. ~~ResTech~~
- c. ~~Campus Child Care~~
- d. ~~Recreation and Wellness~~
- e. ~~Career Services~~
- f. ~~Counseling and Consultation Services~~
- g. ~~Couple and Family Therapy Clinic~~
- h. ~~Health Services~~
- i. ~~Office of the Ombudsperson~~
- j. ~~Students' Legal Assistance~~
- k. ~~Campus Dining~~
- l. ~~Campus Activities Board~~
- m. ~~University Writing Center~~
- n. ~~Holmes Student Center (Audio Visual)~~
- o. ~~Grounds~~
- p. ~~University Libraries~~
- q. ~~Tutoring~~
- r. ~~Student Involvement and Leadership Development~~
- s. ~~Student Employment~~
- t. ~~Financial Aid Office~~
- u. ~~Office of the Bursar~~
- v. ~~Study Abroad Office~~
- w. ~~Huskie Safe Line Service~~

8. ~~The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the following at least once a semester:~~

- a. ~~All Greek governing councils~~
- b. ~~The office of Student Involvement~~
- c. ~~Resident hall directors~~
- d. ~~The office of Academic Affairs~~

9. ~~The Committee shall give a report to the Senate at least once a semester on the discussions that they have had with the groups outlined in Part I, Article II, Section A.7~~

#### ~~F. Committee on Rules and Procedures~~

1. ~~The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall be concerned with the proper management of the Student Government Association, the University, and/or their subdivisions. The Committee shall review and recommend revision of any procedures, guidelines, rules, or legislation of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall chair the Committee.~~
2. ~~The Committee shall also be concerned with legislation establishing penalties for violation of university regulations, including judicial penalties.~~
3. ~~The Committee shall be concerned with enforcement of the SGA Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate Operating Rules. Those matters relating to student government management, including review of all executive appointments subject to Senate approval, are the responsibility of this Committee. The Committee shall also view all candidates presented to the Senate to fill Senate and Supreme Court vacancies based on past, present, and future contributions to the Student Government Association and the student body as well as review all resolutions to be proposed to the Senate for the proper form according to the Senate's Operating Rules.~~
4. ~~The Committee shall be concerned with the services provided to the student body by the Student Government Association and shall see that these services are maintained at their highest levels of excellence. It will also provide legislative oversight for all Student Government Association services.~~
5. ~~The Committee shall ensure efficient communication is maintained among all bodies of the Student Government Association.~~

6. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: All SGA Directors.

G. Committee on Public Affairs

1. The Committee of Public Affairs shall be concerned with the proper advertisement and publicizing the Student Government Association to students.
2. The Committee shall collaborate with other SGA committees to advertise upcoming and future SGA-sponsored events.
3. The Committee shall plan and implement community service projects for the Student Government Association to participate in.
4. The Committee shall plan and execute at least one informational campaign each year that is geared toward recruiting Senators-at-large to fill vacant seats when necessary. Campaign(s) must be submitted to the Speaker for final review prior to implementation and must not interfere with spring elections.
5. The Committee of Public Affairs shall assist the Director of Public Affairs, when applicable, in publicizing the Student Government Association and its initiatives.
6. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Public Affairs
7. The Committee shall design a proposal for an annual information campaign to educate the student body about the services and programs offered or supported by the Student Government Association. The information will be sent to the President of the SGA for review, modification, and consent prior to implementation by the Director of Public Affairs

H. Committee on Campus Life Environmental Affairs

1. The Committee shall be concerned with the improvement of environmental quality on campus as well as contributions to environmental initiatives put forth by the University or the Student Government Association.
2. The Committee shall assist the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs in their initiatives and objectives, especially in regard to communication with organizations.
3. The Committee, under the direction of either the Director or Chair of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs must implement a environmental literacy program that all committee members must go through. They shall attend the program once a semester for how long they serve on the committee.
4. The Committee shall plan and implement a program aimed at educating students about environmental issues with assistance from the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs. This program shall consist of at least one event each semester and must be educational in nature. One event must fall under the purview of Earth Week.
5. The Committee shall attempt to bring environmental and sustainability issues to the attention of campus administrators and encourage their participation in student-initiated changes.
6. The Committee shall serve as representatives for the Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs should they not be able to attend committee meetings as listed in the duties.
7. The Committee shall cooperate with existing environmental student organizations, or community partners, to assist and further agendas regarding sustainability.
8. The committee shall establish an annual Campus Sustainability Week either before, or on Earth Week. They shall work with the Director or Chairperson to plan, implement, and execute all activities.
9. The following members of the Student Government Association may attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions

of the Committee members: Director of Campus Life and Environmental Affairs.

I. Committee on Organization Oversight

1. The Committee on Organization Oversight shall be concerned with the oversight of student organization functions, including but not limited to: recognition, constitution and bylaw amendments, serving on organization committees, etc. The Organization Oversight Committee will report to the senate on matters regarding student organization procedures, concerns, approvals, etc. One (1) university staff member from the Division of Student Affairs will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member to provide further guidance to the committee when needed.
2. The committee shall also be concerned with having at least one (1) member sit on each the University On-Campus Events Committee, Student Organization Advisory Board, and Leadership Awards Planning Team to stay updated on current student organization operations within the university.
3. The committee shall also be concerned with being the first step in student organization conflict resolution prior to university staff that handles organizational development followed by the Student Government Association Supreme Court.
4. The committee shall also be concerned with providing primary approval of new/returning student organizations and referring approved organizations to the Student Government Association Senate.
5. The committee shall also be concerned with reviewing any constitution and bylaws updates for student organizations and provide approval to said updates for student organizations.
6. The committee shall also be concerned with making student organization policy recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
7. The committee shall also be concerned with working with the Vice President and the Director of Organizational Development to successfully complete the Annual Renewal Process.
8. Members of the Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting full recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting full recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization's full recognition.
9. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Organizational Development.

J. Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion shall be concerned with the collaboration of campus resource centers, underserved student communities, and any initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion put forth by the Student Government Association.
2. The Committee shall assist the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their initiatives and objectives, especially regarding their communication with the campus resource centers.
3. The Committee shall meet or send a representative to meet with each of the advisors of the campus resource centers outlined below in Part I, Article II, Section F.9
4. The Committee shall give a report to the Senate at least once a semester on the discussions that they have had with the resource centers outlined in Part I, Article II, Section F.9
5. The Committee will work directly with the resource centers to attend their events and support student initiatives.
6. The Committee shall work to fill all vacant Underserved Student Senate seats.
7. The Committee shall review the list in Part I, Article II, Section F.9 at least once a year to make sure all campus resource centers, and all underserved student communities are represented.
8. The following members of the Student Government Association shall attend meetings of the Committee and participate as non-voting ex-officio members to give reports and hear the opinions of the Committee members: Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
9. The non-exclusive authority of the Committee will be understood to include:

a. Student Conduct

- b. Disability Resource Center
- c. Military and Veteran Services
- d. Center for Black Studies
- e. Latino Resource Center
- f. Asian American Resource Center
- g. Gender and Sexuality Resource Center
- h. Center for Southeast Asian Studies
- i. Center for Burma Studies
- j. Undocumented Student Support
- k. CHANCE Program
- l. Campus Child Care
- m. Recreation
- n. Career Services
- o. Financial Aid Office
- p. Underserved Student Organizations

### ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BRANCH

#### Section 1

#### Student Government Association Committees

##### B. Standing Committee Procedures

Unless noted elsewhere in the SGA Constitution or Bylaws, all standing SGA committees must observe the following procedures:

1. All standing committees of the SGA shall meet at least once every fourteen (14) calendar days when the Senate is in session and shall submit a written report of each meeting to the Chief of Staff. The President will appoint the members of all SGA committees with the approval of the Senate, unless otherwise noted in the Constitution or Bylaws.
2. Officers of committees shall be a chair, who is the presiding officer; the vice-chair, who shall preside over the committee in the chair's absence; and a secretary, who shall keep records of the committee's meetings. The SGA President shall appoint the chair. The vice chair and secretary shall be appointed by the chair with the consent of the committee.
3. The chairperson of a committee shall be free to discuss any matter that concerns the committee but shall vote only in case of a tie. Although the chairperson is free to debate any matter before the committee, they shall conduct all meetings with regard for parliamentary procedures and see that order is maintained in meetings, keeping in mind they are to be conducted in an informal manner. It is the duty of the chairperson to see the committee perform its required functions. The chair shall determine the schedule for the regular meeting of the committee with its approval. The chair may call special meetings of the committee.
4. The following members of Student Government Association may attend meetings of any SGA committee and participate as a non-voting ex-officio member to give reports and hear the opinions of the committee members: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Speaker, Chief of Staff, and Student Trustee.
5. Committee action can only be taken when a quorum is reached. Quorum is more than fifty percent (50%) of the committee's current membership.
6. Standing committees shall have a total of no less than seven (7) members, including the chair and the vice-chair.



**C. Committee Reports**

Committee reports should be brief summaries of the committee's actions. In addition to being valuable to the President, they prove valuable to future committees who discuss related subjects. All committee reports should be submitted to the Chief of Staff with a total of three (3) copies. The reports must include the names of the members of the committee present at the meeting.

**Section 2**

**Student Government Association Standing Committees**

**A. Board of Elections**

The Board of Elections shall be considered a standing committee of the Student Government Association. Its procedures, organization, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined in the SGA Bylaws — Elections Policy.

**B. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall be considered a standing committee of the Student Government Association. Its procedures, organization, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined in the SGA Bylaws — Finance Policy.

**Section 1 3**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch**

**Section 2 4**

**Student Government Association Cabinet**

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57024**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

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**Summary:** A bill to clarify and codify Senate removal process

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the Senate Nathan Gonzalez wants to continue the stated objectives of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session, one of which is streamlining or clarifying procedures; and

WHEREAS, Senator dismissal is one that is not clearly explained in the SGA Bylaws and open to interpretation but also potential abuses from the Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez does not believe Senators should be unilaterally dismissed from Senate for any reason not mentioned in the Bylaws, unless there is an egregious reason, as it violates the will of the NIU Student body or Senate depending on how they acquired their seat; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez wants to stipulate that there is no present situation that requires this remedy and instead is future-proofing policies and general contingency planning that, although related to Executive Order 57001, is of the Speaker’s own accord; and

WHEREAS, Chairpersons have additional responsibilities and therefore should be held at a slightly higher standard than traditional senators, but lower than members of the office of the speaker and therefore require unique provisions; and

WHEREAS, these updated provisions outline a Senators’ rights and proper mechanisms of removal to ensure smooth operations if they are utilized but also inform everyone of their duties to the SGA Senate and NIU Student Body; 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 5  
Senate Vacancies**

- A. Until all Senate seats have been filled as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A the Speaker shall accept applications for all vacancies on the Senate. Vacancies shall include all seats in which a Senator has resigned or been removed, or the seat was not originally filled during the initial election. As each vacancy is announced, the Speaker shall present the name of the first applicant who

has registered with a completed application for consideration for an open seat. Applications will not be taken from graduating students when less than six (6) meetings remain in the session or from returning students when less than four (4) meetings remain in the session. No person who is on the applicant list may be skipped, except for the following:

1. The applicant asks to be skipped.
  2. The applicant cannot attend the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
  3. The applicant's packet of information is not complete; such applicants will be moved to the bottom of the applicant list for later consideration.
  4. The applicant has not attended at least one Senate meeting in its entirety.
  5. The applicant has already been denied by the Senate in the current Senate session.
- B. The Senate will interview each applicant in order of each open seat. The Senate Speaker will introduce all applicants who meet the current Senate seat replacement criteria to the Senate.
- C. The Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures are as follows:
1. Candidates for all Student Government Association offices shall be NIU students in good academic standing.
  2. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and student identification number, allowing them to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records.
  3. Re-entering students shall be eligible for candidacy for Student Government Association posts. Re-entering students are not eligible for any Student Government Association posts if they have been previously removed from their position in a prior session, unless the Supreme Court has met and voted to allow the student to reapply for the next session.
  4. All candidates for Senate seat replacement positions must have attended at least one full Student Government Association Senate meeting prior to candidacy for Senate. (To ascertain attendance, potential candidates must check in with the Senate Clerk within five minutes of roll being called and be present when their name is called at the final roll call at the adjournment of the meeting.)
  5. Applicants must give their presentation to the Senate within four (4) Senate meetings of their attendance as a member of the public. This time limit may be waived at the Speaker's discretion should any extenuating circumstances apply.
  6. All candidates must obtain fifty (50) signatures from their constituents prior to submitting the application to the Speaker. The signatures must include the students' full name, signature, Z-ID number, and a local phone number.
  7. Candidates must have turned in an application for the Senate seat replacement position to the SGA Senate Speaker at least 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting in which applications are first presented.
  8. 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/Hall Director/Graduate Hall Director or official housing contract.
  9. At the meeting in which they are presented, the applicants will be given the opportunity to give a speech, no longer than five minutes, to address the Senate on their reasons for becoming a Senator.
  10. The order in which applicants will be allowed to speak will be the same order in which the applications were turned into the Senate Speaker. Each applicant will be considered separately during the Senate meeting. For each application, the Speaker shall submit a separate resolution for each applicant which is to be the way for Senators to vote on the applicant.
  11. After the candidate's speech, the Senate floor will be open for the Senate to ask the candidate questions. Each Senator will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and receive answers. After all questions have been answered by the candidate or the five (5) minutes have completed, the candidate

will step down and the Senate shall discuss and deliberate the candidate's qualifications for being a Senator. The candidate is allowed to sit in during any discussion, however they are prohibited from partaking in discussion or providing further reasoning of their qualifications during discussion. If the candidate continuously provides interruptions during discussion after receiving a warning from the Speaker, the candidate shall be removed from the meeting until the Senate closes discussion.

12. After the Senate closes discussion, each candidate will be voted on, requiring a two-thirds vote of all present and voting senators to be approved. If the applicant fails to receive the necessary amount of votes, the applicant shall be denied from joining the Senate, but the applicant can still run for Senator in the Spring elections or apply again in the next session.

13. All SGA officials involved in the Senate vacancy approval process must make all decisions in a viewpoint-neutral fashion. All candidates shall be judged objectively on their personal merit and character and not on the views of the group(s) or organization(s) with which they are affiliated.

14. The newly approved Senators will take office immediately after the voting has taken place.

15. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate again in the current session. The removed Senator shall not be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate for future sessions unless the removed Senator files an appeal with the Supreme Court to gain the ability to run in the next session. The appeal cannot reinstate the removed Senator for the current session and must strictly be for the ability to be appointed in the next session. No person who has been removed from office in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.

16. If a Senator is removed from Senate by legislation, the Senator must vacate their seat immediately and their vote will not be counted for future vote counts from that point in the meeting. The total number of Senators will decrease accordingly and the amount for quorum will be adjusted to reflect the new amount of Senators that are currently seated.

a. If the Senator's removal causes a loss of quorum, the Senate meeting shall be ended due to lack of quorum and any legislation that occurs after the Senator's removal will be sent to Old Business in the following Senate meeting.

## **Section 7**

### **Senate Removal**

A. The Speaker of the Senate cannot unilaterally remove a Senator except in the case of failure to complete Open Meetings Act (OMA) training or failure to meet Senate requirements. Senators shall be removed, regardless of if elected or confirmed by the Senate, according to the following provisions:

1. Should a Senator to be deemed acting improperly through conduct or behavior, impedes workflow of the Senate or wider Student Government Association, fails to follow procedures or chain of command, or any other action unbecoming of an SGA officer; any member of the Senate including Office of the Speaker may petition the Rules & Procedure Committee to review the case.

2. The Rules & Procedure shall determine course of action up to and including removal.

3. If the Senator continues the behavior or has at least one more complaint filed, the Rules & Procedure Committee shall write and present a resolution to remove the Senator and afford the complaints to be read first followed by an optional defense of the Senator must in no more than (5) minutes before discussion or debate. The Senator must abstain from the vote removing them.

4. If the resolution passes the Senator cannot appeal.

5. All other provisions mentioned in the SGA Bylaws related to offense and removal for Senators, such as attendance, are not subservient and take precedence over this section except for clauses pertaining to eligibility of reappointment or elections.

6. The Speaker can remove chairpersons from their positions due to work ethic but not as a Senator.

7. If after a conversation between the Office of the Speaker and a Chairperson not performing their duties or otherwise continues then the Office of the Speaker may bypass the Rules & Procedures and move to a resolution to remove the Senator.
    - i. This does not apply to OMA violations as it is covered elsewhere in the SGA Bylaws
    - ii. This provision did not apply if the Chairperson is the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Treasurer or other paid leadership position acting as Chairperson, approved by the Senate or as directed by the SGA Bylaws.
  8. In cases when Senators fail to complete OMA, the Speaker may dismiss the Senator in writing without any need for legislation. Senators cannot appeal.
- B. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate again in the current session. The removed Senator shall not be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate for future sessions unless the removed Senator files an appeal with the Supreme Court to gain the ability to run in the next session. The appeal cannot reinstate the removed Senator for the current session and must strictly be for the ability to be appointed in the next session. No person who has been removed from office in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.
- C. If a Senator is removed from Senate by legislation, the Senator must vacate their seat immediately and their vote will not be counted for future vote counts from that point in the meeting. The total number of Senators will decrease accordingly and the amount for quorum will be adjusted to reflect the new amount of Senators that are currently seated.
1. If the Senator's removal causes a loss of quorum, the Senate meeting shall be ended due to lack of quorum and any legislation that occurs after the Senator's removal will be sent to Old Business in the following Senate meeting.

**Section 7-8**  
**Public Comments**

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*