

**Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**Friday February 20<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, February 19<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 02.06.2026
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
  - A. Chief John & Commander Jackson Introduction
- VII. Speaker's Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
  - A. Trustee Innis
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old 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
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SB57025: A bill to revise attendance requirements for Budget presentations
  - B. SB57026: A bill to clarify the SGA Supreme Court
  - C. SR57029: A resolution to appoint a Senator
  - D. SR57030: A resolution to initiate a referendum regarding the Residence Hall Association
  - E. SR57031: A resolution to recommend revisions concerning undergraduate courses and admissions to the Graduate School
- 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:** President Rivera, Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** President Rivera, Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57022**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**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 Intercollegiate 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 Intercollegiate 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*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57023**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**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 himself 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 4** **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 participates 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 Associations. Its procedures, organization, duties, and responsibilities shall be defined in the SGA Bylaws — Finance Policy.

**Section 13**

**Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch**

**Section 24**

**Student Government Association Cabinet**

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

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

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57024**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**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*

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: A**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez, Treasurer Lazaric

**First Reading**

Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57025**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A bill to revise attendance requirements for Budget presentations

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, it was brought to the attention of Speaker Gonzalez by Treasurer Lazaric the requirements for attendance during mandatory budget training; and

WHEREAS, present Bylaw stipulations that a student organizations President, Treasurer, and Faculty Adviser must attend budget trainings to be eligible for annual funding; and

WHEREAS, the past several SGA Treasurer has accepted at least one member of a student organization to attend the mandatory budget trainings due to time conflicts amongst all of those present and the timing of budget training session which are picked dependent on the SGA Treasurer's or SGA Deputy Treasurer's availability; and

WHEREAS, recent SGA Bylaw changes which requires budget presentation so a student organization can receive any type of funding, which is still important for the organization to know what is required by Student Government Association and the University, need not to be so restrictive as it could cause severe detriment to student organizations; and

WHEREAS, to match operations of the SGA Treasurer to fit the new reality and prevent undue burden on student organizations or severe unintended consequences, this requirement is to be rephrased to match current operations; 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**

**ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS**

**Section 3**

**Mandatory Budget Training**

The SGA Treasurer must host at least two mandatory budget meetings prior to the submission of budget proposals by student organizations. These meetings must be held no later than the end of March. Organizations requesting funding must have at least one representative attend, Executive Board or Faculty Adviser, ~~their President, Treasurer, and NIIU Advisor attend~~ at least one (1) of these meetings. Failure to attend these meetings shall automatically result in the organization or office losing eligibility to receive funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The SGA must announce

budget meeting dates at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

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

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57026**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A bill to clarify the SGA Supreme Court

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, SR55050 was passed by the SGA Senate in the closing months of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session in response to perceived concerns about objectivity of the court and ability to operate if quorum falls below what the SGA Bylaws require; and

WHEREAS, the bill allowed the SGA Senate to act as the Supreme Court, with the SGA Speaker acting as Interim Chief Justice in the event if enough justices recused themselves from a case and states that should there not be a quorum to hear any case, the standing of any decision remains; and

WHEREAS, SB5700 passed by the SGA Senate this year allowed for a panel made of SGA and Student Involvement officials to convene should someone appeal an elections-related decision that the Board of Elections made in the event the SGA Supreme Court is unable to convene; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Supreme Court lacks the quorum necessary to operate even with actions undertaken by the former President Ja’Kobe Jones, President David Rivera, and Speaker Nathan Gonzalez in looking for another justice to ensure they are operational; and

WHEREAS, students should be able to have their case heard by their peers and not have their case immediately tossed in essence due to SGA Supreme Court not being able to function due to circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this change allows the Court to hear any case in the event the court lacks quorum overall, not just due to recusals, and utilize the same provisions as beforehand; and

WHEREAS, Board of Election appeals will still be handled by the process outlined in SB5700X due to the nature of any related sanctions which allows things to still be neutral and handled effectively and in the time manner that the election process natural is; 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 Constitution be amended as follows:

**Section 3. Selection and Removal of Justices**

- A. All justices shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Senate, as vacancies arise. After their appointment they shall not be removed, except by the Senate in accord with the

removal from office procedure described in this Constitution. The Supreme Court shall be composed of five justices. Legislative Branch and Executive officers and staff shall not be eligible to serve on the Supreme Court. Members shall serve so long as they remain students in good standing at NIU.

- B. The five (5) Justices of the court shall elect one of their number to serve as Chief Justice. The Court shall have one (1) Chief Justice and four (4) Associate Justices.
- C. No member of the court system who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgement on that case. A Justices objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedures
- D. The quorum for the Court shall be the Chief Justice and two (2) Associate Justices.
  - a. If quorum is unable to be met due to justice recusals or vacancies and there is a case submitted not related to SGA Elections or constitutionality of legislation passed by the Senate, the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to the SGA Senate with the SGA Speaker acting as Interim Chief Justice for the case, upon a simple majority of the Senate accepting to hear the case.
  - b. Should the case not be accepted, the case will be treated as if the Supreme Court voted to uphold the current ruling.
  - ~~c. If quorum is not able to be meet all petitions presented to the court will be treated as if the Supreme Court voted to uphold the current ruling.~~
  - ~~b. If quorum is not able to be met due to Justice recusal as described in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph D, the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to the SGA Senate with the SGA Speaker acting as Interim Chief Justice for the case.~~
    - a. No member of the Senate who is personally involved in a particular case shall sit in judgment on that case. A Senators objectivity may still be questioned according to a procedure laid out in the Code of Procedure.
    - b. If the Speaker has to remove themselves then the powers of Interim Chief Justice shall fall to the persons outlined in the order of succession for the Senate.
  - c. If quorum is not able to be met due to Senate recusal as described in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph D, the powers of the Supreme Court will fall to the SGA Adviser.

***This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.***

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57029**

**Fifty-Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm a Senator

**Legislation:**

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

WHEREAS, Sam Mostaert is running to represent the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the College of Liberal Arts & 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 Liberal Arts & Sciences:

Sam Mostaert

***This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.***



**New Business**

**Agenda Item: D**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez, Election Commissioner Gurrero

**First Reading**

Friday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57030**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A resolution to initiate a referendum regarding the Residence Hall Association

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Residence Hall Association, RHA, was a student organization that was composed of community advisors (CA's) that helped to hear concerns regarding living conditions but also host events for students at Northern Illinois University who lived in University Housing; and

WHEREAS, the RHA has ceased operations since at least Spring of 2023 according to most available Student Government Association records, with the common cause being lack of participation; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez has heard of staffing shortages from NIU Housing due to turnover and position not being filled due to the current hiring freeze imposed in response to cutting the University's budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez recognizes the rationales and measures undertaken by the University for reducing the budget, which is the top concern for the University and Student Government Association though sees the strain that has fallen on NIU Housing; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez initiated conversations by connecting with Senator Uhrine and some student workers, of Community Advisers and Graduate Assistants, to gauge potential feedback on reviving RHA, which proved not as expansive as anticipated due to limited reach; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez believes that having a revived Residence Hall Association can hear concerns or provide support directly to students living on campus helping not only to provide a shared space and connection to administration, but also to alleviate some pressures and assistance on NIU Housing as a new RHA can intervene to help as best as possible; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez has decided to initiate a referendum to directly gauge student interest in the revival of the Residence Hall Association and how such a revived organization would, if it, occurs and appear, dependent on the actions of the NIU Student Body and Student Government Association after the results are announced; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Constitution Article VIII, Section 1 states, "The Senate may submit an advisory referendum to be placed on the ballot. The request must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote"; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby recommend issuing a referendum on if the Residence Hall Association should be revived; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Speaker Gonzalez shall provide a copy of the resolution upon approval to Election Commissioner Eddie Gurrero and President David Rivera as required by the SGA Constitution; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that Election Commissioner Eddie Gurrero shall meet with the Board of Elections to place the referendum on the ballot with the SGA 2026 Elections; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that since the SGA Supreme Court lacks present quorum to meet, Rules & Procedure Committee shall have the ability to determine or find a way to formalize final wording before placing the referendum on the ballot; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, if the SGA Supreme Court meets the quorum before the referendum is placed on the ballot then the Court shall take up its constitutional duties to determine final wording; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the referendum shall occur before the 57<sup>th</sup> Session closes; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the results of the referendum shall be made public in both writing and announcement by the Speaker of the Senate; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution does not require the Student Government Association to take any action after the results of the referendum as the SGA Constitution specifies that it does not bind the organization in any way.

***This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.***

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: E**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez, Director Ninan

**First Reading**

Friday February 20, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57031**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A resolution to recommend revisions concerning undergraduate courses and admissions to the Graduate College

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association received concerns from a graduate student regarding admissions irregularities and changing requirements concerning perceived undergraduate deficiencies stated by the department; and

WHEREAS, the department perceived that the student lacked undergraduate requirements that were not present on the department’s website nor Graduate Catalog and therefore the student was subject to the whims of the department; and

WHEREAS, there were irregularities with the admission process which was not standard across the different applicants for the program and had the student, among others, admitted conditionally, which required taking undergraduate and graduate courses concurrently which is not depicted as standard practice in the Graduate Catalog nor found on the departments requirements and seemingly occurred without informing the Graduate School in violation of the Catalog; and

WHEREAS, SGA followed up with the Dean of the Graduate School regarding them, but no measurable degree of confidence was restored for the student by either the Graduate School or their department and have stated to Speaker Nathan Gonzalez that they are exhausted from pressing the issue; and

WHEREAS, it is of the opinion of Speaker Gonzalez, and by extension Student Government Association, that no student should feel that they must continuously fight to receive the proper education quality they deserve or tuition money it goes toward; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez stated during the first Faculty Senate meeting that among SGA’s priorities for the 57<sup>th</sup> Session was improving academics to maintain and increase academic prestige and better prepare NIU Students, which this circumstance aligns with; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall urge for recommendations concerning mandating aligned and clearly stated deficiencies the Graduate School and department requirements so students can understand what is required and expected; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association recognizes the authority of departments to maintain degrees of flexibility to meet changing demands or circumstances; and

WHEREAS, however, the SGA wants to ensure that provisions of the Graduate Catalog are as accurate as possible as it remains a way for a graduate student to be fully aware of rights, responsibilities, and other provisions of being a prospective or fully admitted graduate student at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, this resolution aligns with the mission statement and aims of the Student Government Association of improving not only the quality of student life but also academics and preparation for careers after Northern Illinois University; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby recommend, on behalf of the Student Government Association, revisions to the Graduate School and remediation concerning undergraduate course deficiencies and remediation which are as follows; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, SGA recommends the Graduate School ensure that its provisions are met by departments and any new requirements by departments are reflected in the Graduate Catalog and with revisions made as needed; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, SGA recommends having Graduate School to be involved in communication regarding conditional enrollment and requirements with the student and be available as a resource; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, SGA recommends that the Graduate School work with departments to ensure that any program which requires undergraduate deficiencies with expectation of them being met, clearly stated in the department's website and Graduate Catalog; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, SGA recommends the Graduate School develop procedures for students to file a formal complaint if there are items that are mismatched between the Graduate Catalog, department requirements, and anything that is communicated with the student; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, SGA recommends the Graduate School working with the department in question to have standardized admission requirements and process; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recommendations above from SGA be submitted to the Graduate School for discussion and debate by the Graduate Council for approval into the next applicable Graduate Catalog academic year; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, provide remediation to students currently affected by the present policy within reasonable grounds to the best of the School's ability; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School and Faculty Senate President Benjamin Creed within forty-eight (48) hours of the passage of this resolution; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association shall assist students, at the discretion of SGA Leadership, to provide support for any perceived retaliation from affected students, present or future, due to present policy or the passage of this resolution.

***This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.***