

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday September 5th, 2025 – 4:30 PM
Holmes Student Center – Sky Room
Public Streaming: <http://go.niu.edu/SGASenateLive>

Members of the public wishing to give public comment, please submit an [Intent to Speak](#) form, no later than 11:59 pm, September 4th, 2025.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
- VII. Speaker's Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
 - A. President Jones
 - B. Vice President Rivera
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SR57001: A resolution to approve all meeting times, locations, and dates for the Fall 2025 semester
 - B. SR57002: A resolution to approve the 57th Senate Operating Manual
 - C. SB57001: A bill to revise public comments pursuant to Open Meetings Act
 - D. SB57002: A bill to add language for new Greek student organization recognition process
 - E. SB57003: A bill to expand the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee
 - F. SR57003: A resolution to confirm a Chief of Staff
 - G. SR57004: A resolution to confirm a Director of Athletics
 - H. SR57005: A resolution to confirm the Clerk of the Senate
 - I. SR57006: A resolution to confirm the Deputy Speaker
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

September 5th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57001

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve all meeting times, locations, and dates for the Fall 2025 semester.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Senate shall meet on a near-weekly basis on Fridays at 4:30 PM Central Standard Time in various rooms of the Holmes Student Center for the Fall 2025 semester; and

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

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve the Fall 2025 Senate Meeting Schedule as listed below:

SGA SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE FALL 2025

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

Friday, September 5th – Sky Room

Friday September 12th – Sky Room

Friday September 19th – No Meeting

Friday, September 26th - Sky Room

Friday, October 3rd – Sky Room

Friday, October 10th - Sky Room

Friday, October 17th - Sky Room

Friday, October 24th – Sky Room

Friday, October 31st - Sky Room

Friday, November 7th – Sky Room

Friday November 14th - Sky Room

Friday, November 21st – Sky Room

Friday November 29th – No Meeting (Thanksgiving Break)

Friday, December 5th – Sky Room

Friday December 12th – No Meeting (Semester Break)

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57002

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve the Senate Operating Manual

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.I of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “The Senate shall adopt a set of Senate Operating Rules. The rules shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert’s Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker of the Senate shall oversee the Senate Operating Manual upon taking office before the next session; and

WHEREAS, the Speaker shall rewrite the Operating Manual before the start of the session that they shall serve as Speaker; and

WHEREAS, each SGA Senator has a responsibility to know about the SGA Operating Manual as it is a detailed explanation of the SGA Senate; and

WHEREAS, each SGA Senator has received a digital copy of the SGA Operating Manual which can be amended at any point during the current session;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented by this Senate hereby confirm the Student Government Association 57th Senate Operating Manual for the 57th Session of SGA.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57001

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise public comments pursuant to Open Meetings Act

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act, or OMA, was enacted on July 11, 1957, to help ensure a gathering is open to the public to voice their opinions; and

WHEREAS, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) of the Open Meetings Act states, “Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body”; and

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University’ Student Government Association strives to comply with OMA; and

WHEREAS, this bill revises already established procedures and records it in the SGA Bylaws to ensure full transparency with the NIU student body and to prevent radical shifts in policy by current or future Speaker of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, this bill shall supersede any related provision to the public comments in the Seante Operating Manual, if it contains them, rendering such provisions null and void; and

WHEREAS, this legislation forbids the alteration of the procedures through amendments or approvals of the Seante Operating Manual and can only be revised through a normal Bylaw change; 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 7
Public Comments**

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), in which 5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) states, “Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body”. In good faith to public the Student Government Association is codifying public comment procedures into the bylaws to ensure flow of legislation. The Speaker shall have full authority in enforcing these provisions but can delegate enforcement to the Deputy Speaker upon their choice. The Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentarian shall also enforce these rules.

- A. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment shall submit an “Intent to Speak” form or otherwise inform the Speaker of the Senate in writing by midnight of the day before the meeting begins.
- B. Public comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.
- C. No topic may not be discussed for more than fifteen (15) minutes.
- D. The provisions of intent to speak form and total speaking time for one topic shall be noted on the agenda.
- E. No person shall be interrupted in their public comment speaking time unless they violate decorum.
- F. Decorum shall be civil and respectful. Public commenters must refrain from profanity, electioneering, or peddling. If members are joining via electronic means, they shall not be allowed to operate a motor vehicle while presenting. They shall retain the option to keep their video feed on or off.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57002

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to add language for new fraternity & sorority student organization recognition process.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, under the present process on how students can create a new student organization on Northern Illinois University's campus, that is recognized by Student Government Association, there is no dedicate process for fraternities or sororities; and

WHEREAS, such fraternity and sorority organizations have unique procedures that they must adhere to set by the Office Fraternity & Sorority Life, or FSL, of Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, there may be circumstances that the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life cannot allow such chapters to be present at NIU but are recognized by the SGA, which can create an inconsistency in the policies that the university and Student Involvement seek to uphold; and

WHEREAS, this change provides language for the policy of creating a new fraternity & sorority student organization that falls under the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, while ensuring such policy is efficient and less time consuming for their recognition from SGA, given FSL provides approval first; and

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

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

**ARTICLE IV
PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION**

The SGA shall outline an orderly process to assist organizations in obtaining recognition and prevent false or inappropriate groups from receiving recognition. The Vice President, together with the Organization Oversight Committee is charged with overseeing the recognition process. The recognition process consists of the following steps listed below.

- A. Recognition specifically for fraternity & sorority student organizations must first contact the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL) of Northern Illinois University to begin and complete the process for approval at Northern Illinois University.
 1. Upon the completion of FSL expansion procedures, reviews, and approval, a memo will be sent to the SGA Vice President and/or the Director of Organization Development and Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee of a fraternity & sorority student organization recognized by FSL. Upon receiving the memo, SGA will automatically grant recognition without any further action. The approval of an organization by FSL can be shared to the Senate by the Vice President, Director of Organization Development, or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee in their report.
 2. FSL will ensure compliance of SGA required mandates for student organizations prior to the memo being sent.

- B. Recognition Form: All groups seeking recognition must complete an Organization Registration Form on NIU's Student Organization Platform that consists of the following:
1. Organization Description: for use by all new organizations as well as returning organizations that wish to change their description.
 2. Organization Officers: for use at the beginning of each academic year any time an officer or faculty advisor changes during the academic year and during Mid-Year Transition.
 3. Faculty/Staff Advisor Agreement: for use when starting an organization and at any time the faculty advisor changes during the following school year.
 4. Governing Documents: including the organization's constitution, bylaws, and national constitution (if applicable).

C. Office of the President Review

1. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall collect all necessary recognition forms, documents, and other materials that pertain to the new student organization.
2. The Vice President or Director of Organizational Development shall take a review of all the materials to ensure that everything required by Student Government Association is met. Upon satisfaction to either party, the Vice President or Director of Organizational Development will submit the organization to the Organization Oversight Committee.

D. Organization Oversight Committee Review

The Organization Oversight Committee will meet with the leader(s) of the organization, review its constitution, and make a recommendation to approve or reject the organization for full SGA Senate approval. The Organization Oversight Committee will also determine the classification of the organization if approved. The Organizational Oversight Committee can motion to move an organization out of approval should further review and discussion be needed on a specific organization, otherwise be granted full recognition by committee members. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the Treasurer of the SGA of the organization's full recognition as well as the organization's designated classification being granted after approval in the Organization Oversight Committee meeting. Committee members must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting recognition. Furthermore, individuals currently serving in organizations requesting recognition must abstain from voting on the consideration of that organization's recognition. Recommendation of recognition of an organization can be made without a meeting with the leaders of the organization only following approval from both the organization and the Organization Oversight Committee.

E. Senate Notification

Upon notification from the Organization Oversight Committee, the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee must state the organization for which was approved during the committee. The Senate shall be empowered to compel the Chairperson to notify of any organization approvals if after two (2) weeks they have failed to do so at a Senate meeting. The Chairperson's failure to notify the Senate does not impact the full recognition of the new student organization in any way. The Chairperson of the Organization Oversight Committee will notify each organization as well as the treasurer of the SGA of the organization's full recognition as well as the organization's designated classification.

F. Reapplication Following Rejection

Any organization that has been rejected by the Organization Oversight Committee for approval must wait at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of rejection to reapply for recognition. In cases where an organization has lost recognition due to violations of Student Government Association policy and/or Student Code of Conduct and/or has shown a pattern of such behavior, the university may advise on the waiting period for reapplication.

G. Recognition After Cease of Existence

If a recognized student organization either voluntarily or involuntarily disbands or ceases to exist on

campus in an official capacity for longer than one academic year the organization must go through the recognition process again.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57003

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to expand the mediation procedures for the Organization Oversight Committee.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Article IV, §4.E.3 of the Student Government Association Bylaws in the discussion of the responsibilities of the Organizational Oversight Committee states that, “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.”; and

WHEREAS, the lack of clear procedures for the public or Organizational Oversight Committee to follow to make this clause in the SGA Bylaws effective is necessary; and

WHEREAS, the removal of this clause is not necessary as there is still merit in the inclusion of this clause; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the issues the SGA Supreme Court has had in the 56th Session in attempting to be operational and hear a case, student organizations must have a clear alternative for remediation in, intra or inter, student organizational conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Committee shall utilize the same precedents or opinions from the previous sessions of the Supreme Court, afforded by the Parliamentarian, to create reasonable and sound judicial remediation; and

WHEREAS, Article II, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution 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 that the SGA Bylaws be amended to the following:

ARTICLE II

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARTICLE X

Remediation for Student Organizations

If a conflict in a student organization arises that it can longer be resolved by the student organizations, then student organizations may contact the Chairperson of Organizational Oversight Committee for a hearing. The procedures should be as follows:

- A. The person(s) or organization(s) shall submit a written petition to the Vice President and Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee. The petition shall be responded to within forty-eight (48) hours to hear or reject for consideration.

1. If the petition is rejected the petitioner may write to university staff that handles organizational development for remediation followed by the SGA Supreme Court.
- B. If it is determined by the Vice President or Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee to take up the petition, each respondent shall be notified and to collect all materials related to the complaint. The meeting to hear about the matter shall be set for the next scheduled Organization Oversight Committee or for another meeting to be scheduled by the Chairperson of Organization Oversight Committee within seven (7) days of confirmation.
- C. The initial hearing shall allow equal time for each side to present their case and provide the committee to ask questions of each side. No side is allowed to directly confront or ask questions over their case.
- D. There shall be a second meeting scheduled no later than seven (7) days after the initial hearing to render a legally binding verdict.
 1. Such a verdict shall be discussed by the committee and approved in a two-third (2/3) vote of those present with the Chairperson and Director of Organizational Development having no vote but may be allowed to participate in discussion or debate.
- E. The petitioner and respondent shall try to uphold the requirements of the verdict given to them. Any violations, regardless of timeframe, will result in the Chairperson referring the case to university officials or the SGA Supreme Court if necessary. It shall be up to the discretion of the Supreme Court to take the case.
- F. If after a period of three (3) weeks, either party may write to university staff that handles organizational development followed by submission of a petition to SGA Supreme Court for consideration of an appeal of the Committees decision. It shall be up to the discretion of the Supreme Court to take the case.
- G. The Speaker of the Senate cannot add or remove Senators or the Chairperson of the Organizational Oversight Committee during the remediation period, unless sufficient rationale is provided to Senate. This remediation period shall be the hearing to the final verdict.
 1. If the Senate believes that the Speaker removed Senators or Chairperson without sufficient cause they may submit a resolution to be passed to reinstate the removed personnel.
- H. Petitioners and respondents are empowered to go straight to university officials that oversee student organizations or to the SGA Supreme Court if they feel that their case should not be discussed within the committee and should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis of the student organizations adviser or university official.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately

New Business

Agenda Item: F

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57003

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve a Chief of Staff

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that, “The Student Government Association Cabinet is created by the President and exists for the purpose of assisting the president in the performance of their duties and responsibilities”; and

WHEREAS, according to Part I, § Article II, 4.B of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that, “All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, President Ja’kobe Jones has appointed Ashley Johnson to continue serving as the Chief of Staff from the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve the appointment of Ashley Johnson to serve as Chief of Staff.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: G

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5th, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57003

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Director of Athletics

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.A of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that “The Student Government Association Cabinet is created by the President and exists for the purpose of assisting the president in the performance of their duties and responsibilities”; and

WHEREAS, Part I, Article III, §4.B states that “All Directors shall be appointed by the President or Vice President and confirmed by the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, President Ja’Kobe Jones has appointed Damian Hepburn to serve as Director of Athletics; and

WHEREAS, Damian Hepburn has previously served as Director of Athletics during the 56th Session of Northern Illinois University’s Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.A of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies”; and

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby approve of Isabella Montoya to serve as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: H

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57005

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve a Clerk of the Senate.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, 1.T.7 of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “If the Senate is not in session, the Speaker reserves the right to appoint the Clerk without a vote by the Senate. The Clerk shall be an unpaid position if appointed while Senate is not in session and will be updated to a paid position once Senate is in session and the Clerk is confirmed by the Senate.”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez exercised his right and had appointed Cameron Sawyer to act as Clerk of the Senate in the Summer of 2025 to assist with some clerical duties; and

WHEREAS, according to Part I, Article II, §1.U.6 of the Student Government Association Bylaws states that the Clerk shall, “be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate via a simple majority vote”; and

WHEREAS, Cameron Sawyer served as Clerk of the Senate during the 56th Session of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association and has displayed his continued enthusiasm to serve the Senate leading to his out of session appointment; and

WHEREAS. Speaker Gonzalez has elected to appoint Cameron Sawyer to serve solely as Clerk of the Senate;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate approve the Student Government Association 57th Senate Operating Manul for the 57th Session of SGA.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.

New Business

Agenda Item: I

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday September 5, 2025

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57006

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to approve a Deputy Speaker.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, according to Article II, §13P of the Student Government Association Bylaws, “The Speaker shall have the authority to appoint the Deputy Speaker of the Senate”; and

WHEREAS, Senator Eddie Guerrero has served a relatively long career in Student Government Association, as Senator in the 55th Session and Parliamentarian of the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez has elected to appoint Eddie Guerrero to serve as Deputy Speaker;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby confirm Senator Eddie Guerrero for the 57th Session of the Northern Illinois University Student Government Association Senate.

This legislation is ordered to take effect immediately.