

Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday February 27th, 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 26th, 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 02.16.2026
 - C. Senate Minutes 02.20.2026
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
- VII. Speaker's Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
 - A. Treasurer Lazaric
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SB57025: A bill to revise attendance requirements for Budget presentations
 - B. SB57026: A bill to clarify the SGA Supreme Court
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57027: A bill to implement Senate Continuation Contingency Plan
 - B. SB57028: A bill to repeal Senator Stipend
 - C. SB57029: A bill to redefine weekly staff reports
 - D. SR57033: A resolution to endorse Equitable Public University Funding Formula
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

Old Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Treasurer Lazaric

First Reading

Friday February 20th, 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 require 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

Old Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday February 20th, 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 55th 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 allow 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: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57027

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to implement Senate Continuation Contingency Plan

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Executive Order 57001 issued by President David Rivera outlined a need for contingency plans that Student Government Association shall prepare and adopt after the resignation of President Ja’Kobe Jones highlighted that need; and

WHEREAS, although the Executive Order only affects the Executive Branch, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez believes in the need for such contingency plans and agrees with the text of the order; and

WHEREAS, when the SGA Senate went remote due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was confusion due to how the Senate would function; and

WHEREAS, although Student Government Association was able to pull through the lockdown era of the pandemic yet the SGA Senate agendas and minutes for the session immediately preceding and following the era have become permanently lost; and

WHEREAS, these revisions will allow for the SGA Senate to operate, if necessary, within a legally binding format approved by the Senate, since the circumstances of any given situation might prevent Senate from acting and the Speaker of the Senate from exercising ability to direct Senate as needed, especially if handicapped by present wording of the SGA Bylaws; 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:

APPENDIX B

Section 1: Contingency Plan for Senate Operations

All provisions, except for clause G, shall only apply if the Student Government Association Senate must go to remote activities due to pandemic or other emergencies that will endanger student well-being if attending an in-person Senate functions. This includes but is not limited to: Senate meetings, Committee meetings, or other official activities.

- A. The Speaker of the Senate must get approval from the SGA Adviser prior to issuing a written statement proclaiming movement of SGA Senate to online. Such a proclamation shall be announced to all under their authority being composed of Office of the Speaker, Chairpersons, and Senators and appropriate news organizations.

- B. Senate meetings shall have the meeting link posted on the SGA website or other accessible site within forty-eight (48) hours including the agenda. Quorum rules and guidelines shall follow in accordance with Open Meetings Act (OMA). If the State of Illinois or other governing body issues new guidelines related to OMA for online activities, those shall be followed or pandemic era guidelines if none are available.
- C. The SGA Senate must reapprove all Senate meeting times, dates, and update online location at their first meeting and inform the public within forty-eight (48) hours. The Senate can include a clause to return to the prior approved agreed meeting times, dates, and locations if the emergency is lifted or alternative in person location is arranged. The Senate, public, and appropriate news organizations must be made aware if the clause is utilized within forty-eight (48) hours and more than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting the change will take effect. Otherwise, a new resolution to approve new meeting times, dates and locations is needed.
- D. All paid positions shall maintain office hours in a remote setting by outlining the times they are available to receive a Teams call, message or email. If paid members can work at an alternative location, they shall do so with the permission from the SGA Adviser. Hours shall be posted on the SGA website or other accessible site.
- E. All SGA Senate committees under the purview of the Office of the Speaker can authorize virtual meetings in accordance with proper OMA provisions. Physical meetings shall be acceptable only if the SGA Adviser recommends doing so in writing.
- F. Emergency proclamation shall cease when either the SGA Adviser notifies the Office of the Speaker that in person meetings can be maintained, all clear from the University, or vote of the Senate with consultation of the SGA Adviser. Emergency proclamation automatically expires at the end of the Session it was issued, unless renewed by the Speaker after consultation with the SGA Adviser for the next Session.
- G. In preparation for the above provisions, the Office of the Speaker shall include the contingency plan in the Senate Operating Manual. In addition, the Office of the Speaker shall record and upload all SGA files within a central repository monitored and maintained by the SGA Advisor to ensure continuity of documentation before, during and after an emergency proclamation.

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Election Commissioner Guerrero

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57028

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to repeal the Senator Stipend

Legislation:

WHEREAS, then Clerk Manny Corpuz of the 55th Session of the Senate introduced SB55043 to grant Senators a stipend for their work in the Senate to incentivize fulfillment of their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 56th Session of the Senate, the then Speaker Manny Corpuz, and in tandem with the Office of the Speaker have watched the progress of Senators following the Stipend Rubric; and

WHEREAS, although Senators have achieved the minimum qualifications to maintain their seat, the inclusion of the stipend has not incentive increase outreach to constituencies nor increased the flow of legislation from Senators; and

WHEREAS, even in the 57th Session, the status of noted progress remains the same as in the 56th Session; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of funds to provide for Senator stipends would have better served to support SGA operations or been reallocated to supplemental funding reserves for student organizations based on the large payment made to the 56th Session and activities of the 57th Session with the Huskie Pantry resolution; and

WHEREAS, although the stipend rubric was significantly improved for the 57th Session, the spirit of SB55043 was not met even after two sessions of experimentation and thus should be repealed; and

WHEREAS, it is up to future sessions of Student Government Association to revisit the idea of stipends if it is observed to be truly needed to incentivize or other purposes; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §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 enact that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be changed to the following:

SGA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative authority of the Student Government Association shall be vested in the Senate.

Section 1. Powers of the Senate

The Senate shall consist of representatives from the Northern Illinois University Student Body elected according to the rules set forth in the Bylaws. The number of senators shall be set in the Bylaws. The Senate shall review and check the actions of the Executive Branch and shall legislate on matters of student interest. The Senate shall be further empowered:

- A. To appropriate allotted monies and other benefits to SGA-recognized student organizations. The expenditures of such monies are required to follow standard University purchasing and disbursement procedures and are subject to audits as required by state law

- B. To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein. The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws in accordance with the rules for a presidential veto prescribed herein. The Elections Policy and the Finance Policy shall be part of the SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall have the sole power to create and amend the Senate Operating Rules. The Senate shall have the power, with the approval of the Supreme Court, to create and amend the Code of Procedure.
- C. To recognize student organizations. Qualifications for SGA-recognition as a student organization shall be specified in the SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall also have the power to ratify, reject or revoke SGA recognition of student organizations after it has notified the affected organizations and their advisors of the time, date and place of the meeting at which this will be decided. Revoking a student organization's SGA recognition shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote.
- D. To choose additional legislative officers it may deem necessary. The Senate shall decide the duties of each appointed SGA member and to establish a stipend for any official of the SGA that the Senate shall deem necessary. The Senate must approve all appointed officers. All stipend officials of the SGA must perform work equivalent to their stipend during the time in which they are paid. ~~Senators and any other stipend officials shall receive their stipends, pending review following the HR Policy and review by the SGA Advisor.~~ The Senate may conduct a review of the job performance of all paid members of the SGA each semester.

Section 2

Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

In addition to those described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Rules, SGA senators shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Senators shall be required to serve on at least two (2) standing Student Government Association or University committees, one of them being a standing Senate or executive committee.
- B. All Senators of the Student Government Association must adhere to the Attendance Policy of the Senate, which shall be detailed as follows:
 - 1. Senators who fail to attend regular Senate meetings will be charged absences as follows:
 - a. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the initial roll call during the Call to Order unless quorum is never reached, in which case a senator will incur one full absence.
 - b. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for missing the roll call during Adjournment.
 - c. One-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record when quorum is called for during a meeting and the meeting fails to have quorum at that time and the Senator was not among those recorded present for the roll call of the quorum.
 - 2. Senators who fail to attend required committee meetings – whether it is a University Standing Committee, Student Government Association Standing Committee, Senate Standing Committee, Student Government Association Ad- Hoc Committee or Senate Ad-Hoc Committee – will be charged with a one-half (1/2) absence toward their semester Senate Attendance record for each committee absence. If a meeting fails to meet due to quorum not being met, absences will be counted for members that failed to meet.
 - a. Senators are encouraged, but not required, to apply for appointment to university committees. If they are appointed, the Senator must attend the meetings of the University committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting. Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.
 - 3. Any Senator who accumulates three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office based on the attendance policy of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker

shall have the authority to remove that Senator from the Senate. This policy shall not follow an impeachment procedure, and the Senator shall be informed of their removal at the discretion of the Office of the Speaker. Should the Senator wish to appeal the Office of the Speaker's decision, they may petition the Committee on Rules and Procedures for the absolution of the absence in question. The Committee on Rules and Procedures shall have the power to grant or deny the appeal.

4. Any absence that is accumulated by a Senator may be excused by the Office of the Speaker by submitting an absence excusal request form, which may include a Disability Resource Center letter of accommodations two business days, at the latest, after the absence occurs. The Office of the Speaker reserves the right to deny any excusal request in any situation. If an absence excusal request form is not submitted within two business days, the absence excusal request form shall be deemed invalid. Upon the receipt of an absence excusal form by the Clerk of the Senate, the Clerk of the Senate will sign the form and send it for approval to the Office of the Speaker.
 5. The Office of the Speaker shall be charged with notifying a Senator of the status of their excusal form within five (5) business days of receiving the form. The Speakers, upon reaching a decision on the status of the excusal form, shall also notify the Sergeant-at-Arms in writing of the status of the Senator's excusal form.
- C. Senators are required to complete five hours of community service per semester. Verification of these hours must be provided to the Parliamentarian and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to complete or turn in the necessary hours of community service must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to complete the hours to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not completing the necessary hours of community service or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.
- D. Senators are required to attend Conversations on Diversity and Equity (CODE) training during the first semester of their one-year term in office. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their one-year term in office.
1. If a senator has already attended CODE training during their term for another purpose, such as their involvement in student organization, they shall not be required to attend additional training.
 2. If a senator is appointed to the Senate after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, their CODE training requirement shall be deferred to the following semester of their term.
 3. If a senator is appointed to the Senate during the spring semester, and their appointment occurs after the final CODE training of the semester has taken place or are otherwise unable to attend the remaining CODE training(s) due to demonstrable schedule conflicts, they shall not be required to attend CODE training during the term of their appointment.
 4. Senators shall be required to attend CODE training at least once per each one-year term in which they serve, even if they have completed CODE training during a previous term.
 5. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to schedule a minimum of three (3) CODE training courses per semester with the appropriate university office.
- E. Senators are required to become certified and take the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) training as directed by the Senate Operating Manual. Senators are only required to complete the training once during their term in office.
- F. Senators are required to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event per semester. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Director of Community Service and the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not

attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

- G. Senators are required to plan and execute at least one outreach campaign per semester to their respective area of constituency. Verification of this attendance must be provided to the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker no later than the last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who failed to meet this requirement must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to enact one to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the senator's removal from office.

H. ~~Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for their work accomplished during the semester. The amount will be predetermined by the Speaker and Student Advisor and will only be rewarded fully upon the completion of all responsibilities that a Senator must complete within the semester.~~

1. ~~The Office of the Speaker will collect a list of the duties and responsibilities that Senators will complete over the semester. From there, the Office of the Speaker will determine the amount each Senator shall receive based on the list of completion.~~

2. ~~The Office of the Speaker will release to each Senator individually the total amount of the stipend they will receive based on their work for Senate no later than two (2) weeks before the last meeting of the semester.~~

3. ~~It is at the Speaker's discretion to award a portion of the stipend to a Senator if the Senator completed only a partial amount of the listed responsibilities for a Senator. Should the Senator wish to appeal the decision for the amount received, the Senator can appeal with the Rules and Procedures Committee within one (1) week of the initial notice of the stipend release.~~

4. ~~If a Senator graduates within one semester of session, the requirements to receive the stipend will be the same as if they were serving as a Senator for an entire session.~~

5. ~~If a Senator joins before the semester ends, they will still be held to the same responsibilities as any other Senator and will receive the amount determined by the Office of the Speaker.~~

6. ~~If a Senator does not complete a single one of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and that are described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Manual, they will not receive any amount of the stipend. This cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.~~

7. ~~If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.~~

- I. Senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of Senate or SGA to any members of the public or press.

Senators are required to point any questions, comments, or concerns to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as they are the main representatives of Senate. Should any Senator violate this policy, the Speaker shall enact disciplinary action up to and including the Senator's removal from office.

1. Senators are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules and Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks' notice of the disciplinary action.

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the 57th Session Senate shall still be eligible to receive their stipend at the close of the Spring semester in accordance with the approved Senate Operating Manual for the 57th Session.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57029

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to redefine weekly staff reports

Legislation:

WHEREAS, after the passage of SB57026 regarding the restructuring of Executive Directorships that touched on staff reports being made available upon request it muddled if other paid positions could be covered by the same provision; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association’s mission for the 57th Session remains committed to improving transparency and accountability for SGA positions; and

WHEREAS, to promote transparency and accountability such provisions should apply to all paid positions of the Student Government Association such as those in the Office of the Speaker and Office of the President; and

WHEREAS, current provisions are scattered across the SGA Bylaws with no clear centralized clause that encompasses all provisions; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the SGA Constitution, superior to the SGA Bylaws, will not only make such weekly reports clearly mandated for all paid positions, but accessible to the public to understand the work that their elected or appointed officials are doing for the benefit of Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §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 enact that the SGA Constitution and Bylaws be changed to the following:

SGA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE II. THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Section 6. Paid Position(s) Limitations

~~Unless otherwise specified – a~~ All paid positions of SGA shall be limited to a maximum of ten (10) hours of paid work a week. If a position is identified to require more than ten (10) hours the student may bring a resolution forward before Senate with the approval of the SGA Advisor or as a petition without the approval of the SGA Advisor with at least signatures from at least seven (7) sitting Senators. The fact that the Advisor did not approve is required to be disclosed to the entire Senate when the petition is brought to the floor.

A. All paid positions must write weekly staff reports detailing the activities and other work conducted in their position, though they can exclude specific names or groups to protect privacy. Such reports shall include general timeframes for when work was conducted and must include if it was conducted during scheduled office hours.

B. Staff reports shall be submitted to the Student Government Association repository for files and be made accessible, when possible, per the SGA Advisor. Any member of either branch

and their members, relevant news organizations, and NIU community can request reports by contacting the SGA Advisor.

SGA BYLAWS

ARTICLE II LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Section 1 Duties and Responsibilities of the Senate

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

- A. Only the Senate shall have the power to authorize a person to be paid from student fee monies. The following officials are authorized to be paid from student fees at the amount determined by the Senate each year in its annual budget: SGA Accountant and SGA Office Support Specialist.
- B. Legislate all matters of student interest.
- C. Review all activities, business, policy, and property affecting the students of Northern Illinois University.
- D. Review any executive action that spends student fee money within two Senate meetings after it has occurred, unless that expenditure was authorized by either of the following:
 - 1. The passage of a resolution or act by the Senate.
 - 2. The expenditure was necessary to the normal conduct of SGA activities.
- E. Allocate Student Activity Fees based on a budget submitted by the Treasurer on behalf of the organization(s) requesting funds. It shall be a sole responsibility of the NIU SGA Senate to legislate salary increases for all student organizations.
- F. Investigate, initiate, and recommend student government and University policy and present such recommendations or orders to the proper people.
- G. Request the advice of any elected or appointed member of the Student Government Association. No person shall be compelled to give advice by the Senate other than its own members. No person shall give advice if the opinion requested is outside of their area of knowledge, creates a conflict of interest, requires extensive research, or is the duty of the Senate or its committees.
- H. Each member of the Senate is required to author one piece of legislation during their term in office to demonstrate their knowledge as well as their outreach efforts to their constituency. Multiple Senators may collaborate on one piece of legislation at the discretion of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker. This piece of legislation shall be completed and submitted to the Senate before the third (3rd) to last meeting of the current session.
- I. The Senate shall adopt a The SGA Operating Manual. The SGA Operating Manual shall have a status inferior to the SGA Bylaws and superior to Robert's Rules of Order. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the responsibility for keeping the Senate Operating Manual up-to date.
- J. The Senate shall be the ultimate legislative decision-making body of the Student Government Association in adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- K. To pass resolutions giving its opinion on behalf of the student body to the University, University committees, or any part of the Student Government Association, except the Senate, may not issue resolutions regarding the result of judicial verdicts from inside the University and the SGA.
- L. The Senate shall consist of senators allocated as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A.
- ~~M. It shall be the responsibility of all paid members to write weekly staff reports and upload those reports to the Student Government Association website.~~
- N. ...[Continued]

ARTICLE VI

STANDARDS

Section 1: Staff Reports

It shall be up to the SGA Advisor to determine how weekly staff reports are requested and distributed to those requesting them. The President and Speaker should supervise and advise the SGA Advisor on creating or maintaining the process. Staff reports are to be archived by the Office of the Speaker along with all other Student Government Association files and handled accordingly.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez, President Rivera, Treasurer Lazaric

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, President Rivera, Treasurer Lazaric

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57033

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to endorse Faculty Senate resolution on Equitable Public University Funding Formula

Legislation:

WHEREAS, many public universities have been chronically underfunded by the State of Illinois and have generated alarming trends about the current state of public higher education in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Board of Education (IBHE) recommended a 3% budget increase for FY 2027, but Governor Pritzker put forth instead a 1% increase for public universities, furthering widening the budget shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate on Wednesday, February 18th, 2026, passed a resolution calling on the Illinois Board of Higher Education to endorse the Equitable Public University Funding Formula which would help to create more equitable funding for state institutions like Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association has historically been in support of increasing funding from the State of Illinois, and this resolution continues that history on advocating for students; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez believes that the SGA has a unique moment to appear on a united front with Faculty Senate by endorsement of their passed resolution by passing this resolution,

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby endorses the full text of the Faculty Senate resolution listed below.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
ENDORSES EQUITABLE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING FORMULA**

Submitted by:

**Mark Van Wienen, Faculty Senator & President, United Faculty Alliance
Jason Akst, Faculty Senator & President, University Professionals of Illinois Non-Tenure
Chapter**

WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2020, Illinois state investment in colleges and universities dropped by 46% in inflation-adjusted dollars; and

WHEREAS, Illinois public universities from 2015 to 2023 experienced an average 22% cut in inflation-adjusted funding; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) funding formula as developed by the Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding (hereafter, Equitable Public University Funding Formula) identifies the need for \$1.4 billion in additional state funding to universities to support the full cost of equity-centered adequacy; and

WHEREAS, 10 of the 12 Illinois public universities are funded at less than 75% of the IBHE-identified adequacy level, with 8 universities (Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, University of Illinois-Chicago, and Western Illinois University) funded at less than 65%; and

WHEREAS, from FY2004 to FY2024, the average tuition at Illinois state universities increased by 199%, while the national average increased by 108%, a discrepancy that has led increasing numbers of Illinois students to attend out-of-state colleges and universities or deterred them from pursuing higher education altogether; and

WHEREAS, the student share of Illinois college education costs from tuition and fees has increased from 25.4% in FY2004 to 64.4% in FY2022; and

WHEREAS, the average graduating student debt in Illinois is now approaching \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of tuition and fees has contributed to a drop in statewide student enrollment, threatening the viability of programs and the quality of education at our institutions; and

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University (NIU) and other regional universities in Illinois serve a large percentage of students with high financial need, including many first-generation students and minority students who are underrepresented in higher education—the students for whom higher education provides a powerful lever for social advancement and, hence, with whom publicly funded higher education finds its noblest mission; and

WHEREAS, chronic underfunding of NIU and other state institutions has impacted all of our students negatively, denying students the resources they need to stay in school and work to graduate; and

WHEREAS, in Fall 2025 enrollment at Illinois Public Universities increased by 3.8% in the undergraduate population and increased by 6.8% in full-time first-year (freshman) enrollment, and Illinois Public Universities can reasonably anticipate additional enrollment growth as a result of the Illinois One Click College Admit program, which admits students to Illinois Public Universities based solely on grade point average, and students admitted through One Click Admit will likely seek financial aid, scholarships, and other funding to enroll and persist, thereby still further increasing demand for student funding resources across Illinois Public Universities; and

WHEREAS in its January meeting the IBHE only recommended a 3% budget increase for FY 2027, a recommendation that addresses neither the shortfall created by the mere 1% approved

and released by the Governor for Illinois universities in FY 2026 nor the structural inequities between Illinois universities; and

WHEREAS, the IBHE has recommended only a \$50 million increase in Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding, despite the state's failure to meet the outcomes of the IBHE strategic plan for the last two years; and

WHEREAS, the IBHE has not approved a motion to support the Equitable Public University Funding Formula;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of Northern Illinois University (NIU), representing faculty, students, administrators, staff, and other employees of the university, calls upon the IBHE to support increased state funding for higher education, including release of the remainder of the legislatively approved FY 2026 budgetary increases of 3% for Illinois universities, of which 2% has been withheld by the Governor of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NIU Faculty Senate calls upon the IBHE to support the passage of legislation implementing the Equitable Public University Funding Formula, most recently introduced in the Illinois legislature as the Adequate and Equitable Higher Education Funding Act, that provides increased resources to institutions distributed according to the financial needs of institutions and their students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NIU Faculty Senate urges students, their families, and concerned communities across Illinois to support increased public funding for higher education in Illinois, particularly through legislation implementing the Equitable Public University Funding Formula; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NIU Faculty Senate finds, if the IBHE fails to call for the passage of legislation funding Illinois universities adequately, equitably, and sustainably, consistent with the Equitable Public University Funding Formula, that it will have failed in its charge to advance the interests of Illinois students and their families.

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect