

‘Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday March 20th, 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, March 19th, 2026.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Senate Minutes 03.06.2026
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Special Report
 - A. Officer Holden Introduction
- VII. Speaker’s Report
- VIII. Office of the Speaker Report(s)
- IX. Committee Report(s)
- X. Executive Branch Report(s)
 - A. President Rivera
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SB57030: A bill to repeal the Finance Operating Manual
 - B. SB57031: A bill to repeal language from the Constitution as adopted by the 55th Session
 - C. SB57032: A bill to revise Board of Elections Stipend
 - D. SB57033: A bill to amend the Presidential Line of Succession
 - E. SB57034: A bill to revise Senator removal process
 - F. SR57034: A resolution to confirm the Speaker of the Senate for the 58th Session
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57035: A bill to ensure mandated reporter status for SGA officials.
 - B. SR57035: A resolution to confirm a Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs
- XIV. Good of the Order
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment

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

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

Old Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 6th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57030

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to remove the Finance Operating Manual

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 56th Session passed SB57013 to introduce the Finance Operating Manual after discussion between then-Speaker Manny Corpuz, then-Deputy Speaker Nathan Gonzalez, and then-Treasurer Ethan Pesavento; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Operating Manual was intended to be a concise way for student organizations to understand SGA financial policies but also decrease the wording within the SGA Bylaws and be an accessible document; and

WHEREAS, reforms led by now-Speaker Nathan Gonzalez and Treasurer Nicholas Lazaric helped to clarify, simplify, and streamline the SGA Bylaws to a point where it is readable and financial systems and regulations are fully realized and stable; and

WHEREAS, there is now no need for the Finance Operating Manual due to the 57th Session’s efforts to streamline procedures and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, clauses that are not explicitly part of the SGA Bylaws but still in effective due to the Manual’s adoption and do not conflict with the reforms adopted by the 57th Session are being transferred over to the 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 Constitution and Bylaws be amended as follows:

SGA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 3. Duties of the Treasurer of the Student Government Association

The Treasurer of the Student Government Association shall be empowered to:

- A. Oversee the management and appropriations of SGA funds.
- B. Cause to be kept accurate records of SGA expenditures, which shall conform to standard University financial record-keeping practices.

- C. Assist in the preparation of and present student organization budgets to the Senate for approval. The Treasurer shall advise all student organizations as to correct financial procedures.
- D. Appoint such deputies as shall be necessary for the proper operation of the office of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have only one (1) paid Deputy Treasurer. The paid Deputy Treasurer shall be approved by the Senate.
- E. Submit a written financial report of all Student Government Association financial activities at the last regular meeting of the Senate of each semester.
- F. Review, revise & maintain the Finance Operating Manual at least once (1) a semester and submit any changes to the Senate to amend the manual. Purchasing Guidelines that are updated by the University will be maintained by the SGA Treasurer and inform all branches of Student Government Association of changes made.

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 Finance Policy shall also be a part of the Finance Operating Manual. 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 solely amend the Finance Operating Manual by direction of the SGA Treasurer of University with the exception of the Purchasing Guidelines. The Senate shall have the Power to create and amend the SGA Finance Operating Manual in accordance with the rules for a presidential veto prescribed in the SGA Bylaws. The Constitution, SGA Bylaws and SGA Finance Operating Manual shall coexist as equal governing documents so long as they do not conflict. If there is conflict, the Constitution is considered to be superior followed by the SGA Bylaws.

[Continued.....]

Section 5. Definition of Bills, Statutes, Proposed Resolutions, and Resolutions.

All request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees shall take one of the following two forms.

- A. Any request for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees regarding appointing or removing a person from office, adoption or amendments to the Senate Operating Rules, punishment or expulsion of senators, and appointments shall be considered a proposed resolution. Any request submitted to the Senate or any of its committees to make a declaration of its will or opinion binding or non-binding, utilizing or not SGA funds, forcing any SGA official to act officially or not, and affects the internal procedures of the Legislative Branch shall be considered a proposed resolution. Upon approval by the Senate the proposed resolution shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All proposed changes to the Senate Operating Rules shall be considered proposed resolutions and, if passed, shall be considered a resolution of the Senate. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Constitution may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a resolution. A proposed resolution can be voted on the meeting of its first reading.
- B. All requests for a decision submitted to the Senate or any of its committees that proposes amendments of the SGA Constitution and Bylaws, and Finance Operating Manual, shall be considered a bill. When a bill is passed by the Senate and signed by the President it shall become a statute of the SGA. Except for spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes, all proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be considered bills and, if passed, shall be considered a statute of the SGA. All spelling, grammatical, formatting, punctuation, and redundancy changes to the Bylaws may be made at the discretion of either the Speaker or the Vice President without the need for the changes to be presented in a bill. It shall take two (2) weeks for any proposed bill to be voted on. The first week is the first reading with no vote of approval allowed. The second week shall be the second round of reading and can be voted for approval.

SGA BYLAWS

ARTICLE II FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 1 Finance Committee Membership and Structure

- A. The Finance Committee shall be tasked with the oversight of all financial matters of the Student Government Association, including the allocation and oversight of Student Activity Fee money.
- B. The Finance Committee will consist of ten (10) voting members, seven (7) of whom are Senators, appointed at the discretion of the Speaker. The Speaker, Treasurer, and Deputy Treasurer shall serve as

- the remaining three (3) voting members. The chair of the committee shall have the power to appoint and remove previously appointed administrative staff as non-voting ex-officio members, as they see fit.
- C. The SGA Treasurer shall serve as chair of the committee but shall only vote to break a tie. The SGA Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the vice-chair of the committee and preside over the committee in the absence of the SGA Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurer shall serve as the secretary, who shall keep accurate records for the committee.
- D. The Finance Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
1. at least once every fourteen (14) days while the Senate is in session.
 2. Review the annual budget recommendations for each of the budget subcategories and consolidate each subcategory budget recommendation into one omnibus funding bill to be introduced to the Senate no later than the second Senate meeting in April.
 3. Assign SGA-recognized organizations and departments requesting funding to a specific finance subcategory for administrative purposes.
 4. Review any expenditures and financial approvals within the Executive Branch, including Executive Allocations.
 5. Introduce the fiscal policies and recommendations coming from the Committee to the Senate.
Review and approve Supplemental Funding requests.

Section 2

Finance Subcategories

- A. The annual budget shall consist of four (4) subcategories. The annual budget requests for the Student Government Association recognized organizations and certain university departments and offices shall be reviewed in each of these assigned categories as determined by the SGA Finance Committee. Funds allotted to each SGA-recognized organization will be allocated within funding levels for each subcategory. Each subcategory's funding level will be set by the Finance Committee in the second meeting of the Spring semester.
- B. Any individual on the SGA Finance Committee must disclose any current or previous involvement in organizations requesting Student Government Association funding. Furthermore, individuals currently serving or who have previously served in organizations requesting funding must abstain from voting and discussion and debate on the consideration of that organization's budget request.
- C. The individual subcategories are as follows:
1. Tier 1: Non-Funded Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not annually funded due to any reason. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$500.
 2. Tier 2: Competitive Organizations: These are defined as organizations that are not sports clubs or sport organizations but attend/engage in competitions regardless of their affiliation with a university department. Organizations must have already been annually funded, engage in a minimum of three (3) yearly verifiable competitions and are not involved in activity involving physical exertion and skill. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$5,000.
 3. Tier 3: Academic and Department Affiliated Organizations. These are defined as organizations affiliated with a specific academic interest or university department serving a larger section of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$2500.
 4. Tier 4: Sponsored Student Organizations. These are defined as organizations with a focus that serves their specific membership and have no real responsibility to the rest of the student body. The maximum amount of annual funding requested shall not exceed \$1,000.
- D. University departments that provide members of a specific student organization with resources or other benefits, otherwise unavailable to the greater student population. This is the definition for Tier 3 student organizations.
1. Examples include additional funding, a dedicated study place, use of department staff or materials

etc. The Finance Committee can ask for documentation or the name of the department to ensure that they meet the definition of sponsorship or affiliated student organization.

Section 3

Tier Change

The Student Government Association allows student organizations to change their tier status during the academic year. The determination will be made by the SGA Treasurer and proper university officials to confirm the factuality of the change.

- A. Organizations must secure a written formal agreement, email acknowledgement, or other written agreement with the department that is sponsoring.
- B. Fill out “Tier Change Form” available through Huskie Hub.
 - a. Attach all relevant documentation to help prove the change in tiers
- C. Allow two (2) weeks for the SGA Treasurer and/or Deputy Treasurer to review the application.
 - a. If the Treasurer believes that there shall be more documentation needed, they may request it without jeopardizing the application decision within one (1) week of application submission. If the organization does not respond within one (1) week, the Treasurer must decide on available information.
- D. The Treasurer will notify the organization of either approval or rejection of the tier change. The Treasurer will contain as much information in the email if it has been rejected.

Section 3 4

Finance Committee Communication

ARTICLE V

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Section 2

Executive Allocations

- A. Executive Allocations are defined as funding made available by the SGA President for larger campus initiatives. Initiatives shall be classified according to the following: ~~Further clarification on the definition can be found in the Finance Operating Manual.~~
 - 1. Class 1: Low Level – Organization that Organizations that are operating solely or in collaboration with only one (1) other SGA recognized student organization or university department. Neither of these organizations can be Tier 6. The maximum amount that can be given is \$2,500.
 - 2. Class 2 - High Level - Organizations that are operating in collaboration with at least two (2) or more SGA recognized student organization or university department. Neither of these organizations can be Tier 6. The maximum amount that can be given shall be no more than 50% of available Executive Allocation funds.
- B. Organizations must secure written formal agreements with one another by either a mutually signed agreement, email acknowledgement, or other written agreement if collaboration for purpose of requesting Executive Allocation. Any other documentation related to the purpose, event, or impact that will demonstrate the minimum requirements for Executive Allocation must be attached.
- C. For the President or Treasurer to consider and approve the request, it must meet certain eligibility requirements. Those being: serving the greater campus, aligning with the values of the Student Government Association and University, be an approved event on Huskie Hub, and abide by the Purchasing Guidelines.

- D. The total Executive Allocation budget each year will be divided evenly between fall and spring semesters, with the funds remaining from the fall semester rolling over to the spring semester. Any remaining money in the Executive Allocation budget at the end of the Fiscal Year shall remain in the General Reserve.
- ~~E. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to update and maintain the definitions and process of Executive Allocation with the most current Finance Operating Manual set by the Treasurer, the Office of Student Involvement, the University, and the State. All requesters must consult with the most recent Finance Operating Manual to understand the applicable definitions and the entire process.~~
- F. If the SGA President is affiliated with the entity requesting funds, approval of the request shall be handled by the SGA Vice President. If the SGA Vice President is also affiliated with the entity, approval of the request shall be handled by the next officer in the Presidential order of succession who is not affiliated with the entity.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57031

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to repeal language from the Constitution as adopted by the 55th Session

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Speaker Nathan Gonzalez has decided to review approved Constitution and Bylaw changes from the 57th Session after the passage and voluntary acceptance of Executive Order 570002 from President Rivera; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez expanded his review of approved Bylaws to reexamine if anything was missing in adopted changes from the 56th Session or in the final months of the 55th Session; and

WHEREAS, there were several items not included in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws which were approved; and

WHEREAS, something overlooked in the 56th Session and large part of the 57th Session until Speaker Gonzalez noticed the wording in Article XI, Section 3 of the SGA Constitution that the 55th Session acknowledges past amendments were not done according to established procedures, yet the changes made henceforth are to be the most recent adopted constitution; and

WHEREAS, by the Senate’s adoption of the constitutional change acknowledging this occurrence and the SGA Supreme Court lack of intervention during the period and the fact the changes have already being effective for more than two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez believes that there is no reason to conduct further action on determining what was passed to be subsequently removed as the Constitution has changed since then in the 55th, 56th, and 57th Session; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez believes that the 55th Session was acknowledging those issues and remedying as best they could with the adoption of the language which the Speaker finds commendable; and

WHEREAS, the repealing of this language and adoption of new provisions to ensure that what transpired that led to the 55th Session’s adoption of such language does not happen again will be the best step for the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, the 57th Session mission has always been transparent and accountability and even though present members of the SGA Senate were not part of the 55th Session, it is important for SGA to address it to be a model for the current NIU student body and future SGA sessions; and

WHEREAS, the Rules & Procedures Committee has decided []

WHEREAS, Article IX, §1 of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Senate in writing at any regular meeting. When the Senate meets next it shall consider the proposed amendment. The meeting at which the vote shall take place must be at least two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the delivery of the proposal to the Senate.”

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the SGA Constitution be changed to the following:

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposing Amendments

A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Senate in writing at any regular meeting. When the Senate meets next it shall consider the proposed amendment. The meeting at which the vote shall take place must be at least two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the delivery of the proposal to the Senate.

Section 2. Approval of Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all senators, regardless of whether they are present, abstain, or vote. Amendments not approved as a bill or in above manner shall automatically be considered null and void.

Section 3. Preserving the Constitution and Amendments

The Parliamentarian shall maintain a copy of each new constitution in the SGA's digital files. The 55th Senate recognizes that previous amendments were not made according to the constitution, however the Senate recognizes the currently used constitution as the most updated one and as the one to be updated into the future.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 6th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57032

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Board of Election stipend

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez noted an issue with the changes made to the Board of Elections stipend procedures where the current language states that no amount may be approved nor disbursed until the end of the election cycle but does not imply if this includes special elections; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez was thinking in a scenario should Senate be unable to approve a stipend while in Session for any reason or if a special election continues past the last day Senate meets; and

WHEREAS, to incorporate understanding if there could be a special election or more work is done than typical, the stipend amount should reflect the work that they would do which the Senate shall still decide the amount the stipend amount which still helps with balancing; 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 enact that the SGA Bylaws be changed to the following:

**ARTICLE II
Election Commission
Section 3
Board of Elections**

- A. To serve on the Board of Elections, a student must not be on academic probation or punishment for academic or be the defendant in any civil or criminal procedures with the University is also a party. The student must also have and maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for undergraduate students and 3.0 for graduate students during their tenure in office or be in the first semester at the University. All members of must be currently enrolled students with no credit hour requirement for members of the Board of Elections.
- B. Board of Elections members shall receive a stipend, except for the Election Commissioner. A person who already holds an hourly rate paid position within the Student Government Association is eligible to receive a stipend. The stipend for the Board of Elections shall not be approved or disbursed until after the conclusion of the election cycle, including special elections. The Senate shall decide on the dollar amount of the stipend via resolution to be approved by a simple majority without input from the Election Commissioner. The limit for a stipend amount is no more than one-thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200). In the event Senate does not, or is unable to, approve a stipend amount prior to the end of the academic year, then the SGA Advisor shall decide an amount.
- C. [Continued....]

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: D

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57033

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to amend the Presidential Line of Succession

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 47th Session of the Student Government Association passed legislation in the form of SR47029 which updated the Presidential line of succession; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides if the Vice President cannot fill the vacant Presidential position, it will then go to the Treasurer which if they cannot assume the position falls on the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, the rationale for SR47029 was that in the event if all three individuals could not accept the Presidency, there needed to be another option as the Constitution does not provide a mechanism; and

WHEREAS, since then, that provision was repealed at some point in time bringing about the same concern; and

WHEREAS, when President Ja’Kobe Jones resigned, Speaker Gonzalez was fearful if then-Vice President Rivera declined and Treasurer Nicholas Lazaric also declined, the position would fall on Speaker Gonzalez; and

WHEREAS, the resignation of Deputy Speaker Guerrero and each of our overlapping positions as Chairpersons of SGA Committees on the Senate Line of Succession would have fallen on someone who would have not been immediately ready nor prepared to transition to the workload of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, fortunately it was just “disaster” thinking on Speaker Gonzalez’s part as Vice President Rivera accepted the position of the President to ensure smooth SGA operations, but this scenario is still plausible; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez intends to follow Executive Order 57001 regarding contingency plans; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of this provision will allow a better outcome for the Student Government Association as it is clear what should happen as opposed to a Presidential succession crisis; and

WHEREAS, revisions to wording and inclusion of other languages such as explicit calling to Senate Line of Succession in the SGA Bylaws will cover any potential situations that could arise; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, §1 of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “A proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be delivered to the Senate in writing at any regular meeting. When the Senate meets next it shall consider the proposed amendment. The meeting at which the vote shall take place must be at least two (2) calendar weeks from the date of the delivery of the proposal to the Senate.”

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that the SGA Constitution be changed to the following:

ARTICLE III. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 4. Order of Succession

- A. If the President shall resign, be removed, or otherwise vacate office before the expiration of their term the following procedures shall be followed. The Vice President will serve as President. If unable to or declines, the Treasurer shall serve as Interim President. If the Treasurer is unable to or declines, the Speaker of the Senate shall serve as Interim President. In the instance that the Vice President, Treasurer or Speaker is unable to assume the Presidency, then an emergency meeting of all paid positions will convene and elect an Interim President by majority vote. The Senate shall appoint and confirm a new President if there is an Interim President. Any Executive Branch position that is vacant while the presidency is vacant shall remain vacant until filled by the new President, not by the Interim President.
- ~~B. If at any time the President shall resign, be removed or otherwise leave office before the end of the term, the Vice President shall become President. If for any reason the Vice President cannot assume the office, the Treasurer shall serve as Interim President until the Senate chooses a new President. If for any reason the Vice President and the Treasurer cannot assume the vacant office of the President then the Speaker of the Senate shall serve as Interim President until the Senate shall choose a new President. Any Executive Branch position that is vacant at the same time that the presidency is vacant shall remain vacant until filled by the new President, not by the Interim President. The Interim President shall have the power to appoint acting officials to the Executive Branch and to make all other appointments that are the responsibility of the President.~~
- C. The Interim President shall have all duties and responsibilities of the President including appointments. They shall return to their previous position upon Senate's confirmation of the new President, unless they were confirmed to continue as President. If the Speaker should serve as Interim President, the Senate Line of Succession will be utilized.
- D. If at any time the Vice President or the Treasurer shall resign, be removed, or otherwise leave office before the end of the term, the President shall appoint their replacements with the approval of the Senate.
- E. A majority of all executive Branch members who are paid a regular stipend may petition the Senate to remove an elected Executive Branch officer for incapacitation due to illness or other inability to perform their duties. The Senate may remove the person in accordance with the removal procedure proscribed herein.
- F. Except as otherwise specified by this Constitution, all officers appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until the expiration of the term which is being filled.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Speaker Gonzalez, the Rules & Procedures Committee

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez, Senator Tinajero, Senator Boinecki

First Reading

Friday February 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57034

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise Senator removal process.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Senator Tinajero noted to Speaker Gonzalez that there is an issue when it comes to the clauses adopted by the 56th Session on prohibition of removed Senators from returning to the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, current language allows a Senator under threat of removal to resign and escape consequences for whatever perceived transgression that occurred; and

WHEREAS, some of the language within SB57026 was inconsistent and created potential issues should serious cases such as objectivity came into question such as Rules & Procedures Committee members

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:

**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, or egregious actions related to conduct. Senators shall be removed, regardless of whether they were elected or confirmed by the Senate, according to the following provisions:
1. Should a Senator 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. If the person objects to the neutrality of the Rules & Procedure the Speaker shall act on behalf of the committee.
 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 lasting 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 ethics, or other actions, 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 does 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.
 9. If the Speaker removes a Senator due to egregious actions or other conduct and behavior, they can appeal to the SGA Supreme Court for possible reinstatement if they accept the case. They shall only be able to be able to join for the following session.
- 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, or any branch of SGA, 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.
1. If a person is subject to any of above processes or under review by the Speaker or Rules & Procedure Committee for violations and resigns before judgement is made, either can block their eligibility to return to the session or future sessions, elected or appointed to the Senate or any branch of SGA. Only the SGA Supreme Court can take on an appeal by the person to reinstate eligibility for future sessions only.
- 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.

This legislation is to take immediate effect

Old Business

Agenda Item: F

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 6th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57034

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm the Speaker of the Senate for the 58th Session

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Constitution states, “The Speaker shall be chosen by the Senate and serve a one-year term of office”; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez’s one year term of office is set to expire on May 5th; and

WHEREAS, the Senate must elect a Speaker, and only those properly nominated may run in the Speaker Elections; and

WHEREAS, the candidate who receives a majority vote shall be elected as Speaker,

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate resolve that

1. Nathan Gonzalez

Has received the majority of votes to be elected as Speaker of the Senate for the 58th Session.

This legislation is ordered to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Senator Uhrine

Sponsor: Senator Uhrine, Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 20th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57035

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to ensure mandated reporter status for SGA officials.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, members of the Student Government Association are entrusted with representing the student body and upholding the values and standards of Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, student leaders are expected to demonstrate integrity, accountability, and ethical conduct in their actions and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, any incident involving misconduct, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or other violations of university policy can negatively impact on student safety, trust, and the integrity of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, failing to report known misconduct allows harmful behavior to continue and undermines the responsibility of student leaders to advocate for a safe and respectful campus environment; and

WHEREAS, establishing a clear reporting responsibility promotes transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership among members of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, extending these provisions to non-SGA members who are already required to report incidents by virtue of direct employment by the University helps to promote transparency, accountability, trust, and integrity within the Student Government Association; 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

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

ARTICLE VI

STANDARDS

Section 1: Mandated Reporting

All elected and appointed members of the Student Government Association shall be designated as mandatory reporters when acting in their official SGA capacity. This includes paid positions, not already covered by the Northern Illinois University HR Policy by virtue of employment, and Senators.

- A. All SGA members who witness, receive disclosure of, or become aware of any misconduct, must report the incident in a timely manner. Reportable incidents include but are not limited to:
- a. Harassment and discrimination
 - b. Hazing or intimidation
 - c. Violence or threats to student safety
 - d. Sexual misconduct or Title IX protected classes
 - e. Violations of University policy
 - f. Conduct that significantly undermines the missions, values, or ethical standards of the Student Government Association or Northern Illinois University.
- B. Reporting must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of the member becoming aware of the incident through the appropriate channels. If a member does not know which channels to use, they may consult with SGA Leadership, SGA Advisor, or appropriate office. Channels for which reports may be submitted may include:
- a. The Speaker of the Senate
 - b. The President
 - c. The SGA Advisor
 - d. Any paid member of the Student Government Association, Legislative or Executive branch.
 - e. Established University reporting procedures or office.
- C. Failure to report known misconduct shall be considered a violation of ethical standards expected of SGA members. Consequences include:
- D. All SGA members shall complete annual ethics and mandated reporting training to ensure compliance with comprehension of duties and responsibilities as student leaders. Trainings should be organized by Student Involvement, the Speaker of the Senate, and the President for their respective branches. Current University modules and training may be used to satisfy this requirement if implemented by SGA leadership.
- E. Any SGA member who reports misconduct in good faith shall be protected from retaliation or punitive action as a result of making a report, unless proven otherwise. Retaliatory actions shall be investigated by appropriate branch leadership, SGA Advisor or University procedures. Should any SGA member be found guilty of retaliatory actions be dismissed or terminated from their positions.

Section 24: Staff Reports

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday, March 20th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 57035

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs

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 David Rivera has appointed Mathias Jaikovski to serve as Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs; 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 Mathias Jaikovski to serve as Director of Student Life and Greek Affairs.

This resolution is ordered to take immediate effect.