

‘Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday March 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, March 26th, 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
 - B. Senate Minutes 03.20.2026
- 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)
- XI. Cabinet Report(s)
- XII. Old Business
 - A. SB57035: A bill to ensure mandated reporter status for SGA officials
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57035: A bill to ensure mandated reporter status for SGA officials.
 - B. SB57036: A bill to revise the Senate Committee
 - C. SB57037: A bill to revise the Senate Vacancies
- 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: 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 2 4: Staff Reports

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57036

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise the Senate Committee

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 57th Session had a limited of Senators at the beginning of the academic year which hindered Speaker Gonzalez’s ability to establish the committees of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez was re-elected to lead the SGA Senate as the 58th Session Speaker; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez wants to take a proactive measure to prevent SGA Committees from not beginning or interrupted due to quorum issues originating from low Senate count; and

WHEREAS, these efforts align with the contingency planning directives issued by Executive Order 57001 issued by President Rivera; 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

Section 3

Senate Committees

A. Committee procedures:

1. The Speaker of the Senate will appoint the members of all Senate committees.
 - i. Appointed shall not require a resolution but must be made in writing.
 - ii. All Senate committees must meet a minimum of three (3) voting members, not including the chair. If the Senate does not have a large enough population to appoint three (3) voting members to a committee and a chairperson, the Speaker shall ~~must either~~ appoint themselves to sit on the committee and to meet the requirement until a new voting member can be appointed to the committee. If the Speaker is a chairperson of a committee and there is not enough Senators, for any reason, to meet the requirements then the committee can meet with two (2) voting members. However, all two members must be present to satisfy quorum requirements and must be in unanimous agreement for any actions or decisions of the committee. The Chairperson will not be allowed to cast a tiebreaking vote in this specific instance.
 - iii. The Speaker must also appoint a Chair for each committee. The Speaker will serve as Chair for each committee until a Chair is appointed. The Chair will not be included in the total count for quorum but will have the final vote in case of a tie.

[Continued]

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday March 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57037

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise the Senate Vacancies

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez received many interest from NIU students in joining the SGA Senate; and

WHEREAS, the 57th Session approved many Senators via the Senate vacancy process; and

WHEREAS, although effective there are some technicalities that Speaker Gonzalez viewed as reformable to standardize procedures and keep a consistent flow for applicants; and

WHEREAS, these changes will not affect how the Office of the Speaker fills senate vacancies but ensures that if these provisions are needed, they are uniformed and does not impede on the Office of the Speakers ability to ten to other matters; 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

Section 5

Senate Vacancies

- A. Until all Senate seats have been filled as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A the Speaker shall accept applications for all vacancies on the Senate. Vacancies shall include all seats in which a Senator has resigned or been removed, or the seat was not originally filled during the initial election. As each vacancy is announced, the Speaker shall present the name of the first applicant who has registered with a completed application for consideration for an open seat. Applications will not be taken from graduating students when less than six (6) meetings remain in the session or from returning students when less than **six (6) four (4) meetings** remain in the session. No person who is on the applicant list may be skipped, except for the following:
1. The applicant asks to be skipped.
 2. The applicant cannot attend the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
 3. The applicant’s packet of information is not complete; such applicants will be moved to the bottom of the applicant list for later consideration.
 4. The applicant has not attended at least one Senate meeting in its entirety.
 5. The applicant has already been denied by the Senate in the current Senate session.
- B. The Senate will interview each applicant in order of each open seat. The Senate Speaker will introduce all applicants who meet the current Senate seat replacement criteria to the Senate.

C. The Senate Seat Replacement Criteria and procedures are as follows:

1. Candidates for all Student Government Association offices shall be NIU students in good academic standing.
2. All candidates for the Student Government Association office must sign a waiver releasing their name and student identification number, allowing them to determine if the student is in good academic standing through the Office of Registration and Records. Applicants will not be able to be allowed to advance if they are not in good academic standing.
3. Re-entering students shall be eligible for candidacy for Student Government Association posts. Re-entering students are not eligible for any Student Government Association posts if they have been previously removed from their position in a prior session, unless the Supreme Court has met and voted to allow the student to reapply for the next session.
4. All candidates for Senate seat replacement positions must have attended at least one full Student Government Association Senate meeting prior to candidacy for Senate. (To ascertain attendance, potential candidates must check in with the Senate Clerk within five minutes of roll being called and be present when their name is called at the final roll call at the adjournment of the meeting.)
5. Applicants must give their presentation to the Senate within two (2) ~~four (4)~~ Senate meetings of their attendance as a member of the public. This time limit may be waived at the Speaker's discretion should any extenuating circumstances apply for up to one (1) meeting.
6. All candidates must obtain fifty (50) signatures from their constituents prior to submitting the application to the Speaker. The signatures must include the students' full name, signature, Z-ID number, and a local phone number.
- ~~7. Candidates must have turned in an application for the Senate seat replacement position to the SGA Senate Speaker at least 48 hours prior to the Senate meeting in which applications are first presented.~~
8. All candidates are required to provide proof of residence hall contracts, college affiliation, or resource center affiliation depending on the seat for which they are running. Regarding college seats, 'proof' shall be an official document or email received from the school; in the case of university-At-Large, an official document or email from the University. Proof for underrepresented seats shall be an email or letter from the resource center (If there is no resource center for an underrepresented group, then an official email or letter from a student organization representing the group will suffice.) University housing shall provide an official letter or email from the Housing Department/Hall Director/Graduate Hall Director or official housing contract.
9. At the meeting in which they are presented, the applicants will be given the opportunity to give a speech, no longer than five minutes, to address the Senate on their reasons for becoming a Senator.
10. The order in which applicants will be allowed to speak will be the same order in which the applications were turned into the Senate Speaker. Each applicant will be considered separately during the Senate meeting. For each application, the Speaker shall submit a separate resolution for each applicant which is to be the way for Senators to vote on the applicant.
11. After the candidate's speech, the Senate floor will be open for the Senate to ask the candidate questions. Each Senator will have five (5) minutes to ask questions and receive answers. After all questions have been answered by the candidate or the five (5) minutes have completed, the candidate will step down and the Senate shall discuss and deliberate the candidate's qualifications for being a Senator. The candidate is allowed to sit in during any discussion, however they are prohibited from partaking in discussion or providing further reasoning of their qualifications during discussion. If the candidate continuously provides interruptions during discussion after receiving a warning from the Speaker, the candidate shall be removed from the meeting until the Senate closes discussion.
12. After the Senate closes discussion, each candidate will be voted on, requiring a two-thirds vote of all present and voting senators to be approved. If the applicant fails to receive the necessary amount of votes, the applicant shall be denied from joining the Senate, but the applicant can still run for Senator in the Spring elections or apply again in the next session.
13. All SGA officials involved in the Senate vacancy approval process must make all decisions in a viewpoint-neutral fashion. All candidates shall be judged objectively on their personal merit and

- character and not on the views of the group(s) or organization(s) with which they are affiliated.
14. The newly approved Senators will take office immediately after the voting has taken place.
 15. If a Senator is removed from the Senate for any reason other than resignation, military service, or medical emergency, the Senator shall not be eligible to apply for or be appointed to the Senate again in the current session. The removed Senator shall not be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate for future sessions unless the removed Senator files an appeal with the Supreme Court to gain the ability to run in the next session. The appeal cannot reinstate the removed Senator for the current session and must strictly be for the ability to be appointed in the next session. No person who has been removed from office in the Student Government Association by the Senate under the Constitution shall be eligible to apply or be appointed to the Senate.
 16. If a Senator is removed from Senate by legislation, the Senator must vacate their seat immediately and their vote will not be counted for future vote counts from that point in the meeting. The total number of Senators will decrease accordingly and the amount for quorum will be adjusted to reflect the new amount of Senators that are currently seated.
 - a. If the Senator's removal causes a loss of quorum, the Senate meeting shall be ended due to lack of quorum and any legislation that occurs after the Senator's removal will be sent to Old Business in the following Senate meeting.

This legislation is to take immediate effect