

‘Student Government Association Senate
Northern Illinois University
Friday April 10th, 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, April 9th, 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
 - C. Senate Minute 03.27.2026
- 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. SB57036: A bill to revise the Senate committees
 - B. SB57037: A bill to revise the Senate vacancies
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SB57038: A bill to reform the Elections procedures
 - B. SB57039: A bill to further reform the Elections procedures
- 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 27th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57036

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to revise the Senate committees

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

Old 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

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday April 10th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57038

Fifty–Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to reform the Elections procedures

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez was informed by the Board of Elections during the Spring 2026 elections of some wording confusion and need for clarification in the updated Student Involvement-SGA Panel that was enacted at the beginning of the 57th Session; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez was informed by some students who mentioned the unclear nature of campaigning on Election Day and the 100-foot rule which means that if the Board of Elections decided to implement physical polling stations, there cannot be any campaigning within 100 feet of those stations; and

WHEREAS, it becomes unknown, unclear, and unchallenged if this applies since everyone has their own device which acts as the polling station; and

WHEREAS, the date of when the elections occur is listed in the Bylaws as from Monday to Wednesday on the last week of March, but the SGA Constitution states it occurs Tuesday and Wednesday of that same time; and

WHEREAS, although the Constitution takes precedence this has not been the case due to the inconsistency, so the Constitution will be updated to reflect the present standards; and

WHEREAS, candidates who violate a “minor” federal law or any statute of any recognized government is a grave issue as it highlights their conduct overall which could endanger the core of the Student Government Association; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that violations of any statute of local, state, or federal government automatically warrant sanctions or disqualification; and

WHEREAS, further revisions will help to make the Bylaws more consistent with one another and better support increased workflow; 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 VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Time of Elections

There shall be one regular SGA election each year. The Election shall be held on the last consecutive ~~Monday through Tuesday and~~ Wednesday of March. Runoff elections shall be held one calendar week from the date of the original election. The Senate may set a different date for a particular election. The Senate shall be considered to officially start at the first meeting after the previous session closes. If at any time the number of vacant seats in the Senate shall reach one less than half of the total number, then a special election shall immediately be called for all vacant Senate seats.

Section 2. Spring Term Elections

The Spring Election shall consist of election of the President, the Vice President, and the Treasurer, the Trustee and Senate candidates running to represent their chosen constituencies but not to exceed the Senate seats as described in the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B. The inauguration ceremony for the President-Elect, the Vice President-Elect, and the Treasurer-Elect shall take place on the Friday preceding final exams, ~~or alternative ceremony determined by the Election Commissioner. however the newly elected officers shall not take office until the fifteenth (15th) day of May.~~ The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustee shall have their terms begin and end on May 5th. The Inauguration ceremony for the Senate shall take place at the close of the final regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the academic year ~~or alternative ceremony determined by the Election Commissioner.~~ Newly elected Senators shall take office upon inauguration. The newly elected officers shall serve a one (1) year term of office. Vacancies among the newly elected officers shall not be considered a bar to other newly elected officers taking office. If a newly elected official cannot take office, then the position will be filled by the other newly elected officials according to the order of succession.

ARTICLE I TIMELINE OF SPRING ELECTIONS

- A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed by ~~the first scheduled Senate meeting in October. the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of October.~~
- ~~B.~~ A resolution calling for nominations for Board of Election members shall take place no further than the second-to-last scheduled Senate meeting of October. Candidates will be appointed the following week. If there are still spots open, they can be filled in the second meeting and approved with the rest of the candidates. ~~Nominations for the Board of Elections shall take place no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of November. The Board of Elections shall also be appointed at the next consecutive meeting.~~
- C. Candidate meetings shall take place after the end of winter recess and no later than the first week of February. ~~Candidates' meetings must take place no later than the Monday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess.~~
- D. Candidates' registration shall close on the second-to-last Monday in February. The ballot shall be announced on the Monday prior to spring recess. ~~Candidates' registration shall close the Friday two weeks prior to the start of spring recess, and the ballot shall be announced no later than the Wednesday prior to spring recess,~~ no candidate may be added after this date except as a write in candidate.

- E. Elections shall take place on the last consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of March.
- F. Election results shall be announced no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed. ~~or the conclusion of any appeals regarding appeals, whichever is later.~~
- ~~G.~~ Election results shall be posted to the SGA Office, and the Board of Elections shall notify any relevant news publications of the results no later than thirty-six (36) hours after the polls have closed. Results for positions undergoing appeals will be announced after appeals are processed. ~~or the conclusion of any appeals regarding appeals, which is later.~~

ARTICLE II Election Commission

Section 1 Requirement of Neutrality

- A. No member of the Board of Elections shall play an active role in the campaign of any candidate. None of the above-mentioned persons endorse, publicly support, or play an active role in advocating in public for any candidate or referendum subject to election.
- B. All SGA officials involved in the ~~Senate Vacancy approval process~~ administration, tabulation, certification, or appeals of the SGA Election 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 groups or organizations with which they are affiliated.
- C. Any member of the Board of Elections who fails to comply with the rule regarding Public Neutrality or whose misfeasance, malfeasance or incompetence jeopardizes the conduct of an election, will be subject to removal as prescribed herein and in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.
- D. When validating candidates' eligibility or in the consideration of sanctions, Board of Elections members shall abstain from verifying documents, discussion or debate, and voting on those with whom they share or have shared current or past organization affiliation, excluding the SGA.

ARTICLE IV CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

Section 1 Campaigning

Campaigning shall be defined as any public action on behalf of the candidate. This includes physical and written campaign materials, electronic campaigning, campaign personnel, and verbal campaigning.

- A. Campaigning of any type is not permitted at the following locations:
 - a. University classrooms on weekdays between 7 AM and 9 PM regardless of type and materials distributed.
 - b. Any libraries except for posting materials on the bulletin board with appropriate approvals.
 - c. The Huskie Bus Line whether they are moving or not.
 - d. Door-to-door solicitation in residence halls.
 - e. One hundred feet (100 feet) from any polling station during Election Day. For elections that have only digital election or hybrid, campaigning is allowed in the MLK Commons and Holmes Student Center, except for any hotel floors. Locations already restricted, as noted above, is still not permitted including residence halls.
- B. Campaigning is always allowed at the Holmes Student Center, with exception of any hotel floors and the MLK Commons up until polls closed. Campaigning is allowed in Residence Hall lobbies only.

Section 2

Physical and Written Campaign Materials

- A. Physical and written campaign materials shall be defined as any written or tangible materials to be disseminated among voters that display support or opposition for a candidate or ticket.
- B. All physical and written campaign materials must be filed with the Board of Elections and cannot be distributed without the prior approval of the Board of Elections. Printed campaign materials must be visibly signed by the candidate, stamped by the Student Involvement office, and Approved by the Board of Elections before any material is posted or distributed.
- C. In the case of yard signs or similar objects, the office of Student Involvement must approve of the content, and the University Grounds Department must approve the location of the posting when applicable. A color photograph of the sign to be posted may be filed with the Board of Elections in lieu of a physical copy.
- D. All posted materials must abide by the Student Involvement Poster Policy/Chalk Policy.
- E. No campaign material shall be allowed where it may physically deface or destroy property, such as posted materials, stickers or any other form of self-adhesive materials, buttons, and any other material deemed potentially destructive by the Board of Elections. Adhesives must be approved by the Board of Elections prior to use. In questions of defacement or removability, a candidate or designee's successive demonstrations of removability in all instances shall be sufficient.
- F. Any damages sustained by property, University or otherwise, shall be the sole responsibility of the candidate(s). Damages may include excessive litter of campaign materials as determined by the Board of Elections, and the individuals in violation shall be held liable for any damages caused which require professional repair.
- ~~G. Campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including, but not limited to, posting, or passing out campaign materials.~~
- ~~H. No campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries, except for posting materials on public bulletin boards.~~
- I. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I) for the purposes of campaigning such as posters or other written work are prohibited, especially if they are used to defame or otherwise attack any of the candidates running. The Board of Elections shall decide questions regarding inappropriate usage of physical and written campaign usage which includes personal attacks, defamation, or libel of any candidates in the election, whether it's tied to A.I or not.

Section 3

Electronic Campaigning

- A. Electronic campaigning shall be defined as any form of non-verbal campaigning accessible using electronic devices, such as social media platforms, emails, or instant messaging.
- B. Virtual campaign materials shall follow the same procedures of approval as the physical and written campaign materials.
- C. The use of generative Artificial Intelligence (A.I) for the purposes of campaigning such as videos and posters are prohibited, especially if they are used to defame or otherwise attack any of the candidates running. The Board of Elections shall decide questions on appropriate electronic platforms. Inappropriate usage of electronic campaign usage that the Board of Elections shall decide includes personal attacks, defamation, or libel of any candidates in the election, whether it's tied to A.I or not.

Section 4

Verbal Campaigning

- A. Verbal campaigning shall be defined as any unwritten and vocal solicitation in support of a campaign.
- ~~B. No door-to-door solicitation of votes in residence halls may be done without proper permission from the residence hall director. Those in violation of this regulation may be forbidden from campaigning in that residence hall for a period of not less than 48 hours.~~ The Board of Elections shall decide questions regarding

inappropriate usage of verbal campaigns and other violations.

C. Candidates are not permitted to open ballot links for voters, nor can they remain present when they cast their ballot.

~~D. Verbal campaigning may not take place in university classrooms on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., including speeches. No verbal campaigning is allowed in any of the libraries.~~

Section 6 Violations

- A. All candidates in violation of any university policy or federal, state, county, or municipality laws **are automatically subject** ~~may be subject~~ to the sanctions and punishments contained therein. They may also be sanctioned or punished up to and including disqualification from the election.
- B. All campaign regulations shall apply to all candidates, including write-in candidates. Any candidate who begins to campaign for office prior to being notified by the Board of Elections shall be disqualified from election to office and from holding office.

ARTICLE V SANCTIONS, APPEALS, AND DISQUALIFICATION

Section 1

Warnings

- A. A warning is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a lighter penalty. All warnings must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
- B. Warnings may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate's behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.
- C. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any warning(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the warning(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written warning(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been warned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original warning(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional warnings as soon as possible.
- D. A candidate may receive up to three (3) warnings before it becomes a sanction. If a candidate receives a second warning for the same type of violation, it is immediately eligible to be a sanction upon approval from the Board of Elections. ~~When a sanction is given from warnings, the number of warnings the candidate has resets after the sanction is issued.~~
- E. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are warnable offenses:
 - 1. Minor ethical violations
 - 2. Improper posting campaign material
 - 3. Minor violation of any university policy **or federal, state, county, or municipality laws**
 - 4. Dissemination of campaign material(s) that directly link to methods of voting.
 - 5. Inappropriate usage of electronic platforms by candidate(s) or ticket(s).
 - 6. Failure to allow the Election Commissioner to follow, subscribe, etc. any social media accounts used for the purpose of campaigning.
 - 7. Failure to follow tabling procedure in Residence Halls.
 - 8. Issues connecting to endorsements.
- F. [Continued...]

Section 2 Sanctions

- A. A sanction is defined as a statement of guilt given to a person for violation of the election procedures, SGA policies, or University policies, which carries with it a penalty. All sanctions must be issued in writing; however, a standardized form may be used.
- B. Sanctions may be imposed for violations by candidates or campaign personnel, which includes persons campaigning on the candidate's behalf, even if the candidate does not have specific knowledge of such actions.
- C. The Board of Elections shall notify the candidate in writing of any sanction(s) and the reason(s) for the imposition of the sanction(s) as soon as possible after the imposition thereof. A copy of the written sanction(s) will be filed in the Office of the Student Government Association and will be available for review by any member of the NIU student body. If additional evidence relating to a violation for which a candidate has been sanctioned or evidence of additional violations comes to the attention of the Board of Elections after notice of original sanction(s) was provided to the candidate, the Board of Elections will send separate written notice to the candidate of such new grounds or additional sanctions as soon as possible.
- D. The following offenses, including but not limited to those, listed below are sanctionable offenses:
 - ~~3~~ ~~Multiple warning~~
 - ~~3~~ Warnings from three (3) separate incidents, or two (2) warnings of the same incident. This is a compounding effect.
 - 3 Violation of previous sanctions or warnings
 - 3 Severe breaches of ethical conduct
 - 3 Campaigning in any forbidden location outlined in the SGA Bylaws.
 - ~~3~~ ~~Campaigning within 100 feet of the building containing voting stations on election day(s)~~
 - ~~3~~ ~~Campaigning on the Huskie Bus line during election day(s)~~
 - 3 Disruption of any class
 - 3 Failure to submit accurate campaign personnel forms.
 - 3 Severe violation of any university policy or minor violations of federal, state, county, or municipality laws
 - 3 A candidate(s) selected observer's disruption of tabulation procedure.
 - 3 Failure to confirm that the candidate(s) or ticket(s) have not spent or received any goods or services.
 - 3 Cause of damages sustained by property by campaign materials.
 - 3 Door to door solicitation of votes in residence halls.
- B. Prior to Election Day
 - 4 No sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than forty-eight (48) hours and/or cover more than three (3) buildings or locations.
 - 4 Whenever a sanction is issued, the Board of Elections shall post the sanction in the SGA Main Office within four (4) Business hours. All rulings of the Board of Elections shall be in writing and shall be posted in the Student Government Association Office and available for review by any member of the SGA or the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of business as well sent out in a weekly Board of Elections email to the student body.
 - 4 Candidate(s) found to be acting in variance with campaign regulations as described in the Bylaws shall be subject to the following actions:
 - i For the first offense, the Board of Elections shall forbid the candidate(s) from campaigning in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours but not more than forty-eight (48) hours. For each additional offense, the candidate may be forbidden from displaying campaign materials in the building in which the offense occurred for a period of twenty-four (24) hours but not

more than seventy-two (72) hours.

- 4 Candidates found to have violated ethical standards including but not limited to the NIU Code of Ethics are subject to sanction by the Board of Elections. In the event of ethical violations, a majority of the Board of Elections is required to issue sanctions.

C. Sanctions on Election Day

- 3 On the day(s) of an election, no sanction issued by the Board of Elections shall carry with it a punishment that shall last for more than four (4) hours and/or cover more than one (1) building or location. The penalty for multiple sanctions may accumulate a series of sanctions that may last beyond the time limits indicated in this paragraph or cover multiple locations.
- 3 No campaigning will be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of any voting station on Election Day(s). This shall include any physical, written, or verbal campaigning. No electronic campaigning shall be allowed that allows a campaign to define a set area, including, but not limited to, a flyer that advocates for a candidate or their campaign within 100 feet of a voting station.
 - iii Candidates and/or their workers who violate this regulation may not be allowed to distribute literature in the vicinity of the building that contains the voting station where the violation occurred for the remainder of the election.
 - iii For any further violation of this regulation after the first, the candidate and/or their workers shall not be allowed to distribute literature anywhere on campus for the remainder of the election.
 - iii No candidate shall be sanctioned for a violation of this section unless it is shown by a substantial weight of the evidence that the candidate or someone working on behalf of the candidate was the violator. The candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this section simply because someone possessed their campaign material inside of a voting place.

Campaigning is forbidden on any Huskie Bus Line, stationary or in motion during the elections. A violation of this may result in a sanction left up to the discretion of the Board of Elections. Bulletin boards on Huskie Line Buses may be used for posting campaign material

This legislation is to take immediate effect

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Gonzalez

Sponsor: Speaker Gonzalez

First Reading

Friday April 10th, 2026

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57039

Fifty-Seventh Session

Summary: A bill to further reform the Elections procedures

Legislation:

WHEREAS, there was confusion regarding how Senators were elected into their positions during the Spring 2026 SGA Elections since there was less participation considering the Spring 2024 or Spring 2025 Elections of recent memory; and

WHEREAS, the SGA Bylaws Election Policy outlines majority and ranked choice voting rules which could be misinterpreted or made unclear; and

WHEREAS, revisions to make explicit explanations as opposed to references to complex voting styles and attempt to harmonize the procedures will ensure there is no confusion, align to current Board of Election practices, and streamline tabulation procedures; 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 VII

TABULATION

Section 4

Determination of Winners

- A. The candidate receiving a simple majority of all legitimate and valid votes cast for the office in question shall be considered the winner for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Student Trustee. If no candidate shall receive a majority, then the votes will be allocated as determined by the ranked for those candidates until one candidate received a majority. If no candidate reaches a majority, then the candidate receiving the least amount of votes shall be eliminated with the two remaining candidates head into a run-off election. If a tie exists still persists then a run-off election for the remaining two candidates receiving the most votes shall be held.
- B. The winners of the Senate seat races shall be decided by the following.
 1. Candidates for specific constituencies will be ranked by voters based on preference. Voters can also choose “No Vote” for specific candidates as well. So long as candidates do not receive more “No Vote” than valid votes and there are less candidates running than seats available for the constituency, they shall win their seat. A candidate who receives more “No Vote” regardless of total number of seats available shall be eliminated. If a candidate receives less votes than other candidates and there are more candidates than seats available, they shall be eliminated.
 2. The Senate candidate(s) with the most votes within the race for their constituency, as determined by ranked choice voting rules, shall be the winners of those seats. With the number of open seats being determined by the Student Government Association Bylaws Part II Article III, §1.A-B.

3. If a tie occurs for any one seat in question, then a runoff election shall be held.
- C. Write-in candidates shall be considered legitimate candidates and shall be allowed to win elections provided the Board has not disqualified them.
- D. The Board of Elections may release the election results to the public as early as the last day of the election following tabulation if there are no pending appeals to the Board of Elections and the SGA Supreme Court or write in candidates needing to be validated.

This legislation is to take immediate effect