

**‘Student Government Association Senate**  
**Northern Illinois University**  
**Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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
  - D. Senate Minutes 04.10.2026
- 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. SB57028: A bill to revise the Senator Stipend
  - B. SB57038: A bill to reform the Elections procedures
  - C. SB57039: A bill to further reform the Elections procedures
- XIII. New Business
  - A. SB57040: A bill to revise provisions of the SGA Senate
  - B. SB57041: A bill to revise Corrective Action 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, Senator Gunther

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez, Rules & Procedures Committee

**First Reading**

Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57028**

**Fifty-Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A bill to revise the Senator Stipend

**Legislation:**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, although the stipend rubric was significantly improved for the 57<sup>th</sup> Session, the spirit of SB55043 was not met even after two sessions of experimentation and thus Speaker Gonzalez proposed for it to be repealed; and

WHEREAS, after decision in the Senate, it was decided to provide Senator compensation but expand on the revisions currently adopted by the 57<sup>th</sup> Session; and

WHEREAS, payment will come for activities done outside the scope of what Senators are constitutionally bound to do with a greater chance at fulfilling the spirit of SB55043; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

**SGA CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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

**Section 1. Powers of the Senate**

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

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

## **SGA Bylaws**

### **Section 2**

#### **Duties and Responsibilities of Senators**

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

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

committees and will be held to the same standard as missing a Senate committee meeting.

Absences are considered the same as an absence from the SGA committee.

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

the Speaker no later than the second to last Senate meeting of each semester. Senators who fail to attend at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event must submit a written statement as to why they were unable to attend an event to the Rules and Procedures Committee. This statement will be reviewed by the Committee. If there is no written statement delivered for not attending at least one Student Government Association Public Relations event or if the reasoning of the statement is considered invalid by the Committee, then it will result in the Senator's removal from office.

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

- H. Senators will receive a stipend at the end of the semester for work exceeding the required responsibilities and duties, during the semester. No Senator will be paid a stipend by default unless they complete standards dictated in the Point System. The amount will be predetermined by the Speaker and Student Advisor, and will only be rewarded fully upon the completion of all responsibilities that a Senator must complete within the semester.

1. The Point System shall be found in Appendix C of the SGA Bylaws and incorporated in the SGA Senate Operating Manual. The point system shall not be amended via amendment to the SGA Operating Manual and can only be amended by revising the SGA Bylaws.
2. The Office of the Speaker shall track and verify all points earned. Eligibility for stipend begins the first week of any Senate meeting of the semester and ends three (3) weeks before the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting. Any discrepancies or disputes of missing points shall be reported to the Rules & Procedures Committee for official review within one (1) week of initial notice. Appeals may only be filed once per session. Decisions by the Rules & Procedures Committee are final.
3. Documentation or any supporting evidence must be submitted to the Speaker of the Senate in writing.
4. If a Senator joins before the semester ends and earns points, they will be eligible to receive a stipend pending Office of the Speaker review. Any rejections cannot be appealed to the Rules & Procedures Committee.
5. The Office of the Speaker will collect a list of the duties and responsibilities that Senators will complete over the semester. From there, the Office of the Speaker will determine the amount each Senator shall receive based on the list of completion.
2. The Office of the Speaker will release to each Senator individually the total amount of the stipend they will receive based on their work for Senate no later than two (2) weeks before the last meeting of the semester.
3. It is at the Speaker's discretion to award a portion of the stipend to a Senator if the Senator completed only a partial amount of the listed responsibilities for a Senator. Should the Senator wish to appeal the decision for the amount received, the Senator can appeal with the Rules and Procedures Committee within one (1) week of the initial notice of the stipend release.
4. If a Senator graduates within one semester of session, the requirements to receive the stipend will be the same as if they were serving as a Senator for an entire session.
5. If a Senator joins before the semester ends, they will still be held to the same responsibilities as any other Senator and will receive the amount determined by the Office of the Speaker.
6. If a Senator does not complete a single one of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and that are described in the Constitution and Senate Operating Manual, they will not receive any amount of the stipend. This cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.
7. If a Senator is removed from Senate, they will not receive any amount of the stipend, and this cannot be appealed by the Rules and Procedures Committee.

- I. Senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of Senate or SGA to any members of the public or press. Senators are required to point any questions, comments, or concerns to the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as they are the main representatives of Senate. Should any Senator violate this policy, the Speaker shall enact disciplinary action up to and including the Senator's removal from office.
1. Senators are able to appeal any disciplinary action in front of the Rules and Procedure Committee within one (1) weeks' notice of the disciplinary action.

### **Appendix C: Senator Stipend**

#### **A. Point System**

- a. First legislation written/passed: Five (5) points.
- b. Each subsequent legislation written/passed: Three (3) points
- c. Chairing a single committee: Ten (10) points.
- d. If chair two (2) or more committees: Five (5) points.
- e. Sponsoring legislation after required minimum: One (1) point.
- f. Serving on additional committees beyond required minimum: Three (3) points.

#### **B. Distribution Scale**

- a. 0-5 Points: \$0
- b. 6-10 Points: \$75
- c. 11-15 Points: \$125
- d. 16-20 Points: \$175
- e. 21-24 Points: \$225
- f. 25+ Points: \$250

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 57<sup>th</sup> 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 Constitution and Bylaws be changed to the following:

**SGA CONSTITUTION**

**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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## SGA BYLAWS

### 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 ~~administration, tabulation, certification, or appeals of the SGA Election 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 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*

**Old Business**

**Agenda Item: C**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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*

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: A**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez

**First Reading**

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57040**

**Fifty-Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A bill to revise provisions of the SGA Senate

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, a part of the streamline efforts of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session was to codify and stop practices in the Senate that serve, or not, a purpose in the operations; and

WHEREAS, precedents that Speaker Gonzalez took on included ability for the Speaker to delegate, Senate's ability to overview SGA officials, the Speaker running Senate meetings, and election procedures of the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez has seen how these actions played out in the 57<sup>th</sup> Session and although returning as Speaker for the 58<sup>th</sup> Session, wants to revise these provisions to ensure that there is consistency and harmony in SGA operations and the rule of law for the start of the new session; and

WHEREAS, the Rules and Procedures Committee of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session had decided to formalize the Board of Election procedures for the Speaker of the Senate elections as conducted since the 54<sup>th</sup> Session and similarly done prior which will now be reflected; and

WHEREAS, duties concerning initiatives for committees are made explicit as well as the fact the Speaker must run the Senate meetings which is not directly addressed; 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 Constitution be changed to the following:

**ARTICLE IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**Section 1. Powers of the Senate**

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

- A. To appropriate allotted monies and other benefits to SGA-recognized student organizations. The expenditures of such monies are required to follow standard University purchasing and disbursement procedures and are subject to audits as required by state law.
- B. To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein. The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws in accordance with the rules for a presidential veto prescribed herein. The Elections Policy and the Finance Policy shall be part of the



SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall have the sole power to create and amend the Senate Operating Rules. The Senate shall have the power, with the approval of the Supreme Court, to create and amend the Code of Procedure.

- C. To recognize student organizations **or delegate recognition to the appropriate committee set in the SGA Bylaws.** Qualifications for SGA-recognition as a student organization shall be specified in the SGA Bylaws. The Senate shall also have the **sole** power to **ratify, reject or** revoke SGA recognition of student organizations after it has notified the affected organizations and their advisors of the time, date and place of the meeting at which this will be decided. Revoking a student organization's SGA recognition shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
- D. To choose additional legislative officers it may deem necessary. The Senate shall decide the duties of each appointed SGA member and to establish a stipend for any official of the SGA that the Senate shall deem necessary. The Senate must approve all appointed officers. All stipend officials of the SGA must perform work equivalent to their stipend during the time in which they are paid. No person shall hold more than one SGA stipend position at one time. The Senate may conduct a review of the job performance of all paid members of the SGA each semester.
- E. To pass all resolutions and statutes that shall be necessary for the execution of all authority vested in the SGA, or any department or officer thereof.
- F. To require any official of the SGA or any official of any other student organization to testify at Senate or committee proceedings, after prior notification in writing. Every officer of the Student Government Association shall submit a written or oral report of their activities to the Senate each month.
- G. To oversee the conduct and operations of any elected or appointed SGA officials.**
- H. To require all officers of SGA-recognized student organizations, following the election or appointment of their successors, to turn over all records and properties pertaining to the office to their successors.
- I. To place advisory referenda on the ballot in regular or special elections.
- J. To determine the method for nominating persons to fill Senate vacancies and to approve all such nominees.
- K. To appoint and approve a student to a vacancy in the Judicial Branch or any officer charged with conducting an election, if:
  - a. The appropriate officer fails to nominate a student for a vacant office by the beginning of the next third (3rd) regular Senate meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy, and
  - b. The appropriate officer fails to notify the Senate of their intention to make the appointment and the date of the meeting at which their nomination shall be submitted.

### **Section 3. Senate Meetings**

- A. The Speaker of the Senate shall decide the time, date, and location of the first meeting. The time, date, and location of Senate meetings shall be agreed by the Senate during the first meeting. If the Senate cannot agree to a permanent meeting schedule, the Speaker shall decide. No meeting shall fall during academic recess or final examinations. Senate meetings shall be held on NIU's Campus and no earlier than Noon and no later than 8 P.M unless approved by a resolution in the Senate. These shall constitute regular Senate meetings.**

- B. ~~The time, date and place of regular meetings shall be decided upon by the Senate, or in the event the Senate does not decide, then the Speaker shall decide. If the regular meeting time of the Senate shall fall during an academic recess or during final examinations then the Speaker shall decide the time, date and place of the next meeting. These shall constitute regular meetings.~~
- C. A Special Senate meeting may be called upon the written request of forty percent (40%) of the sitting Senators or President to the Speaker of the Senate. The meeting must be called within ten (10) days upon receipt of the request with the time, date, and time decided by those who call the meeting. The Senate may also pass a resolution to call for a special meeting. The President and the Senate must be informed by any means of the meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. No meeting shall fall during academic recess or final examinations. Senate meetings shall be held on NIU's Campus and no earlier than Noon and no later than 8 P.M unless approved by a resolution in the Senate.
- D. ~~At the written request of seven (7) Senators or the President, a special meeting must be called within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the request, at a time, date and place to be decided upon by those calling the meeting. A special meeting request must be turned into the Speaker and President. These shall constitute special meetings. All special meetings must be held on the main campus of NIU. Whoever calls the special meeting must give notice to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and all senators by mail and telephone at least three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting. No special meeting shall commence before noon, nor shall a special meeting commence after eight o'clock, post meridian (8:00 p.m. CST).~~
- E. All regular and special Senate meetings must be attended by all senators and missing any regular Senate meeting shall count as an absence. Any senator having three (3) absences during a single semester or five (5) absences during their one-year term of office from regular Senate meetings or from regular Senate committee meetings shall be considered removed from office and shall be so notified. Absences from committee meetings by senators may be counted towards the total number of absences listed above. The Bylaws shall list which committee meetings shall count as required. The Speaker shall notify the Senators of their absences. SGA Senators missing a regular, special, or committee meeting may file a petition with the Speaker for the absence to be excused. The Speaker may excuse an absence for the reasons including, but not limited to, illness, official University business, or academic commitments. Excused absences shall not count towards a Senators absence tally as described in Article IV, Section 3. Paragraph C, of this Constitution.
- F. Quorum for the Senate shall consist of a majority of the total number of filled Senate seats.
- G. To have a opening ceremony in the beginning of the Senate meetings after the meeting is called to order following the process described in the Operating manual.

#### Section 4. The Speaker of the Senate

- A. The Speaker of the Senate shall be ~~chosen~~ confirmed by the Senate and serve a one (1) year term of office, and shall enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Senator, other than the right to vote. If the Speaker ~~shall also be~~ is also elected to the Senate, then the Speaker shall have the right to vote, only in the instance of a tie. A resolution calling for nominations shall take place no earlier than March 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominees will be voted on the following week on the same resolution. The nominee receiving the most votes shall

- become the Speaker. The Speaker's term begins and ends on May 5<sup>th</sup>. ~~The Speaker shall have the authority to send resolutions or bills to any relevant committee for study; this shall not be interpreted to abridge the authority of the Senate to make decisions on resolutions or bills.~~ The Speaker shall be the spokesperson for the Senate.
- B. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the authority to send bills, resolutions, topics or directives to any relevant committee for study; this shall not be interpreted to abridge the authority of the Senate to make decisions on bills or resolutions.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to enforce all SGA rules within the Legislative Branch. The Speaker shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of the minutes of all Senate meetings, which shall include a record of the attendance of the members of the Senate, within five (5) calendar days of each meeting. The minutes and the record of attendance shall be presented to the Senate at the next regular meeting. The Speaker shall ~~attend run~~ meetings and deliver statements on behalf of the Senate. ~~and perform all other duties delegated to the Speaker by the Senate.~~
- D. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to instruct all new senators of correct constitutional, bylaw, and parliamentary procedures. It shall be the responsibility of the Speaker to update all Senators on any procedure changes that will affect senators during their term as a senator.
- E. The Speaker shall cause to be kept accurate records of Senate meetings, the Operating Rules of the Senate and all committees that report to the Senate. Upon their appointment as Speaker, it is the Speaker's responsibility to review and update the Senate Operating Manual which will be brought forth to the Senate for approval ~~within~~ during the first meeting of the new session. If the Senate rejects the new Senate Operating Manual, the Senate Operating Manual shall be sent to the Rules & Procedures Committee for further review and be brought back to the Senate in the following regularly scheduled meeting.
- F. Appoint Senators to all Senate Committees and shall coordinate such committees as necessary. ~~The Speaker shall have the ability to appoint Chairpersons and remove them with sufficient rationale.~~ The Speaker has the responsibility to remove any Senator from a committee with adequate reasoning to ensure that the committee can fulfill their responsibilities effectively. The Speaker shall notify the chair of the committee of any removal as well as provide the reasoning for the removal.
- G. Serve as a member on the Senate Finance Committee. The Speaker has the authority to sit in on any Senate committee as a non-voting, ex-officio member. The Speaker has the power to join the committee with majority consent of the committee.
- H. The Speaker of the Senate shall have the authority to call off a Senate meeting ~~with sufficient rationale in extreme cases.~~ However, the Speaker may not call off two consecutively scheduled senate meetings without the approval of a majority of the Senate. The Speaker's discretion at canceling the meeting will be put under review by the Senate for the following meeting. If the reasons for the Speaker ~~in~~ calling off the meeting are deemed invalid, then the Senate is empowered to take action against them.
- I. If the appropriate office (s) or officer(s) fails to amend the Constitution and Bylaws within twenty-one (21) days of passage, the amendments are transferred to the Office of the Speaker, who will update the Constitution and Bylaws within fourteen (14) days of the transfer.
- J. The Speaker can further delegate rules, in writing and with reason, to members of the Office of the Speaker or Senate as designed

## **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 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.
- C. The fact that a given bill may use or non-use terms such as “whereas” or “resolved” does not make it a proposed resolution; nor does the use or non-use of such terms in a proposed resolution make it a bill.
- D. All proposed resolutions and bills must abide by the template found in the Senate Operating Manual. Only bills and resolutions being read for the first time may appear in New Business of the Senate agenda. Otherwise, all bills and resolutions tabled by a vote **are or** automatically, including legislation that was sent to be edited and already read to the Senate shall appear in Old Business in the Senate agenda.

Resolutions, bills, and petitions that fail may be brought back to the Senate for consideration

## **Section 6. Veto Procedures**

Each bill passed by the Senate must be presented to the President within five (5) weekdays when class is in session for signature and become a statute of the SGA. Every bill that the Senate shall pass must be presented to the President within five (5) weekdays of classes or exams. The President may sign the bill, and it shall then become a statute of the SGA. If the President takes no action for more than five (5) weekdays when class is in session of classes or exams, then the bill shall be a statute of the SGA. If the President vetoes all, part, or lines of the bill within the five (5) day period, the bill shall automatically be reappear with objections to the Senate for reconsideration. If the President vetoes the bill or some part the bill within this period, then the bill along with any objections shall be sent back to the Senate for reconsideration. The Senate after discussion and debate may choose to accept the veto or override the veto by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote where it shall automatically become statute of the SGA. If, after reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Senate seats which are filled approves the bill, it shall become a statute of the SGA. The reconsideration must take place before the end of the vetoing President's term of office, or the bill shall be considered null and void.

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*

**New Business**

**Agenda Item: B**

**Author:** Speaker Gonzalez, Senator Gunther

**Sponsor:** Speaker Gonzalez, Rules & Procedures Committee

**First Reading**

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENROLLED SENATE BILL 57041**

**Fifty–Seventh Session**

---

**Summary:** A bill to revise the Corrective Action Procedures.

**Legislation:**

WHEREAS, Speaker Gonzalez was conducting reviews of the SGA Constitution and Bylaws and noticed inconsistencies and problems that need to be addressed when compared to overall transparency and accountability actions taken by the 57<sup>th</sup> Session; and

WHEREAS, the Corrective Action Procedures are too bureaucratic and cumbersome when it comes to the removal of SGA officials to abide by their duties if reported to their overseeing supervisors of their respective branch; and

WHEREAS, the supervisors must go through a process that takes a long time and requires more adverse actions before it can progress to termination which goes against the reforms enacted in the 57<sup>th</sup> Session for other members of the SGA and allows such behaviors to continue; and

WHEREAS, all current burden is on the SGA Senate to hold SGA officials accountable as opposed to the supervisors which hold a greater responsibility at ensuring that their respective branch is in order; and

WHEREAS, revisions will ensure that the rights of those accused are properly laid out and followed but improves transparency and accountability to the NIU Student body and organizations that look up to the SGA; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, “The Senate shall have the power to create and amend the SGA Bylaws”

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

SGA Constitution and Bylaws be changed to the following:

**Section 3**

**Corrective Action Procedures**

- A. The Student Government Association shall conduct itself in accordance with university policies and procedures related to human resources and employee management insofar as they do not conflict with the policies detailed below or in other governing documents of the SGA. In addition to compliance with these policies, failure to uphold the duties and responsibilities set forth in this and other SGA governing documents shall result in corrective action focused on accountability, cooperation, and personal growth in leadership. Officers of SGA should conduct themselves appropriately and with the understanding that they are representatives of the NIU student body. Corrective action may only be taken towards supervisees by supervisors. No retaliatory or discriminatory corrective action may be taken under any circumstances.
- B. Corrective action shall follow a ~~three~~ **four**-step process: ~~verbal warning~~, written warning, suspension, and termination. Supervisors may only act when infractions are demonstrable. A written summary letter of each

action taken shall be sent to the offending SGA officer as part of the procedure, and any relevant parties shall be informed. Templates for summary letters may be found in the Appendix of the SGA Operating Manual.

1. Verbal warnings shall be issued verbally upon confirmation of a minor violation of SGA policies. Minor violations are those that do not significantly interfere with the function of the SGA, and might consist of missing staff reports, failure to report to the Senate, failure to attend required meetings, or any number of other infractions. The issuing supervisor shall collect a signature at the time of the warning. Refusal to sign the verbal warning or refusal to meet with an SGA supervisor to sign the verbal warning shall automatically escalate the verbal warning to a written warning.
  2. Written warnings shall be issued in writing upon suspected or confirmed confirmation of a more serious violation, or if the SGA officer fails to modify their behavior after a verbal warning and violates the same policy again after a minimum of 5 business days. Serious Violations might include, but are not limited to, improper office conduct, missing or late agendas or minutes, irresponsible or unethical use of SGA position, or violation of the NIU Student Code of Conduct. The officer shall return a signed copy of the warning to the supervisor within one (1) week two (2) weeks of receipt. Refusal or failure to sign a written warning shall result in a second written warning. Refusal to sign a written warning shall lead to immediate suspension or removal, upon discretion of the supervisor. Failure to sign a written warning shall result in a second written warning.
  3. Suspension shall be a temporary removal from one's position and duties, issued in writing without pay, without pay if applicable. The length of suspension shall be determined at the discretion of the supervisor in coordination with the SGA Advisor. Suspension shall last no fewer than three (3) days and no more than two (2) weeks. Exact start and end times will be communicated in writing to the officer and the SGA Advisor. Suspension shall include an action plan, created by the supervisor, SGA Advisor, and SGA officer, detailing practical steps to improvement and a timeline. Matters that may necessitate suspension include, but are not limited to, repeated offenses following a written warning after a minimum of 5 business days, violations of SGA election policy, abuse of the privileges of office, or major minor violations of the NIU Code of Conduct. Accumulation of three or more written warnings for any unrelated policy violations shall result in an automatic suspension upon any further violations. A suspension shall begin on a pre-selected date at the direction of the supervisor in coordination with an SGA Advisor and must be served for the full amount. The suspension cannot be served on days that are considered to be breaks during the school year or days that the school is not open. If a break occurs during a suspension, the period of time spent on break does not count as part of the suspension and the suspension will continue once the break is over. All duties and responsibilities, as well as pay, shall resume at the conclusion of the suspension period.
  4. Only the SGA President and Speaker can terminate officials in question under their authority after three (3) written warnings or based on the merits of the action. Termination shall be communicated in writing and include the SGA Advisor. Termination will result in immediate loss of pay and privileges of their position. Subordinate supervisor cannot terminate any SGA officials and doing may result in termination. Termination, only if not arisen from a resolution by the SGA Senate or accumulation of written warnings, can be appealed to the SGA Supreme Court within (2) weeks. If the appeal is on behalf of an officer of the Supreme Court, it shall be submitted to the Senate as legislation.
  5. Termination shall be a last-resort action resulting in removal from one's SGA position, delivered in writing, taken by a supervisor upon confirmation of continued violation of SGA policies, failure to uphold the steps of an action plan according to its timeline, or a violation so serious that no corrective action is possible, such as intentional mismanagement of SGA funds. Termination by a supervisor shall result in a loss of pay, when applicable. All terminations must include an exit meeting between the supervisor, SGA officer, and SGA advisor. Supervisors shall author a piece of legislation to be presented to the Senate for a vote of removal from office. Should this legislation fail, the officer may choose to continue working without pay. Officers who receive stipends shall be paid a prorated amount proportional to their time worked.
- C. SGA shall remain current to NIU policies regarding corrective action and shall update the corrective action procedures to reflect university policies. Any changes in university policies regarding corrective action or the



corrective action procedures shall be written as legislation to be presented to the Senate. Should the legislation fail, the corrective action procedure will continue to follow the most current SGA Bylaws corrective action procedure.

D. The supervisory hierarchy shall be as follows:

1. Executive:

- A. The President shall supervise all officers of the Executive Branch.
- B. The Vice President shall supervise all officers of the Executive Branch except for the President.
- C. The Chief of Staff shall supervise all Directors.
- D. The Treasurer shall supervise the Deputy Treasurer.

2. Legislative:

- A. The Speaker shall supervise all officers of the Legislative Branch.
- B. The Deputy Speaker shall supervise all officers of the Legislative Branch except for the Speaker.

~~C. Chairs of committees shall supervise their committee officers for matters that pertain directly to committee proceedings. This includes the Treasurer, the Chair of the Board of Elections, and the Chairs of ad hoc committees.~~

3. Judicial:

- A. The Chief Justice shall supervise the Judicial Branch.

4. The Speaker, President, and Chief Justice may issue ~~verbal or~~ written warnings to each other, but suspension and termination must go to the Senate for a vote to ensure fair proceedings. Supervisors are still bound by the policies and procedures of this and other governing documents and are subject to removal from office or other consequences imposed by the Senate.

5. The Senate shall supervise all elected and appointed members of the SGA. The Senate may submit or pass a resolution to issue a written warning to an SGA official. This can only arise if a Senator reached out to the appropriate officer and heard no response or behavior was not corrected within one (1) week. Any resolution to remove an elected or appointed official shall be done in accordance with established procedures or 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote. The Senate, as a representative body of the student population, shall supervise every elected and appointed position in SGA. Rather than written summary letters, Senators wishing to issue corrective action shall draft legislation in the form of a ~~verbal or written warning, suspension, or termination (removal from office).~~ This action shall be reserved for situations where the Senate/Senator has reached out to the appropriate supervisor by sending a Corrective Action Request Form and has not heard back from the supervisor nor seen a change in the offending behavior after two (weeks). Or where the Senate/Senator has heard back from the appropriate supervisor, yet the offending behavior persists and when asked the supervisor fails to provide steps taken to prevent the issue from continuing. Verbal or written warnings shall pass with a simple majority. Suspension or termination shall pass with a two-thirds majority. Petitions for termination (or removal) require signatures from seven (7) senators.

D. Supervisors shall use their best judgement when determining their approach to corrective leadership and shall consult other SGA officers or the SGA advisor when necessary.

E. Supervisors shall be tasked with ensuring that their supervisees are knowledgeable regarding and agree to all policies, procedures, duties, and responsibilities of their positions.

F. The supervisors of each branch shall, in coordination with the SGA Parliamentarian, maintain a filing system for historical records of corrective action.

~~G. Appeals of any corrective actions shall be submitted in writing within 2 weeks to the SGA Supreme Court. If the appeal is on behalf of an officer of the Supreme Court, it shall be submitted to the Senate as legislation.~~

*This legislation is to take immediate effect*