

Student Government Association Senate

Northern Illinois University

2:00 p.m. – Friday, 3 November 2023

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, November 2nd, 2023.

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Verification of Quorum
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 0. From October 17th, 2023
Minutes are distributed electronically to the Senate.
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Speaker's Report
- VII. Special 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. SR55014: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - B. SR55017: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their Constitution
- XIII. New Business
 - A. SR55019: A Resolution to set the stipend for this year's Board of Elections
 - B. SR55020: A resolution to confirm a Senator
 - C. SB55007: A Bill To require at least two officers of the executive board for student organizations to attend yearly CODE training.
 - D. SB55008: A bill to update the bylaws to remove the seat of Chair of University Services Oversight Committee.
 - E. SR55021: A resolution to Advocate for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students
- 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 Hensley

Sponsor: Speaker Hensley

First Reading

13 October 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55014
Fifty-Fifth Session**

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Matt Robinson has met the requirements necessary to be appointed as a member of the Student Government Association Senate; and

WHEREAS, Matt Robinson is running to represent the College of Health and Human Sciences; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the College of Health and Human Sciences bloc;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences:

1. Matt Robinson

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Old Business
Agenda Item: B
Author: Deputy Speaker English
Sponsor:

First Reading
20 October 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE Resolution 55017
Fifty-Fifth Session**

Summary: A resolution to fix the way SGA amends their Constitution.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA should reflect the realities of how the Senate operates; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the SGA currently does not reflect the realities of how SGA operates; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, §1.B of the Student Government Association Constitution states that, "To solely amend the SGA Constitution as provided for herein";

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

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposing Amendments

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

Section 2. Approval of Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all senators, regardless of whether they are present, abstain, or vote.

Section 3. Preserving the Constitution and Amendments

~~No portion of this original Constitution shall be altered or destroyed. Instead, each Amendment shall be attached to this Constitution along with its ratification date and signatures. Each Amendment shall state the articles, sections and paragraphs that are amended.~~ The historian shall maintain a copy of each new constitution in the SGA's digital files.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: A

Author: Election Commissioner Amaka Onebunne

Sponsor: Speaker Hensley

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55019
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A Resolution to set the stipend for this year's Board of Elections.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Part II, Article II, Section 4.B of the SGA Bylaws states "Board of Election members shall receive a stipend...It shall be up to the discretion of the Election Commissioner to decide on the dollar amount of the stipend each year, with consent from the Senate in the form of a vote"; and

WHEREAS, Election Commissioner Amaka Onebunne has determined the following stipend amount is appropriate for the work done by this year's BOE;

THEREFORE, The Students of Northern Illinois University represented in the Senate enact that the stipend received by members of the 2024 Board of Elections shall be of the amount of \$1,500.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: B

Author: Speaker Hensley

Sponsor: Speaker Hensley

First Reading

3 November 2023

**ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55020
Fifty-Fifth Session**

Summary: A resolution to confirm a Senator

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Nicholas Lazaric has met the requirements necessary to be appointed as a member of the Student Government Association Senate; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Lazaric is running to represent students At-Large; and

WHEREAS, there are vacant seats within the students At-Large bloc;

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate hereby appoint the following as a Senator for students At-Large:

1. Nicholas Lazaric

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: C

Author: Sergeant at Arms Nikolas Bereolos

Sponsor: Sergeant at Arms Nikolas Bereolos

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55007
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A Bill To require at least two officers of the executive board for student organizations to attend yearly CODE training.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, Previous years student organizations have been required to have at least two officers of their executive board to attend CODE training; and

WHEREAS, CODE training shall be completed once a year to verify all student organizations are being inclusive of all peoples; 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 under Part III, Article II, § III enact that at least two executive board officers of every student organization must complete CODE training each year.

THEREFORE, the students of Northern Illinois University represented in this Senate enact that under Part V, Appendix A the following definition be added, CODE Training is the conversations on diversity and equity

This act is ordered to take effect next year.

New Business
Agenda Item: D
Author: Clerk Corpuz
Sponsor: Clerk Corpuz

First Reading
1 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE BILL 55008
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A bill to update the bylaws to remove the seat of Chair of University Services Oversight Committee.

Legislation:

WHEREAS, the current bylaws mention that the Chair of University Services Oversight Committee exists; and

WHEREAS, University Services Oversight Committee does not exist nor does its chairperson exist anymore; and

WHEREAS, this position causes a gap in Senate Order of Succession that is unnecessary; 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 bylaws be changed to the following:

Section 6
Senate Order of Succession

If at any time during their one-year term in office the Speaker of the Senate chooses by their own free will or is forced to pass as chair in a situation, the Senate Order of Succession will take place to determine who assumes the Temporary Speaker of the Senate role. The title of Temporary Speaker of the Senate is only for the length of time that a piece of legislation is on the floor and once the legislation has been decided, then the Speaker of the Senate will assume the chair position once again until such a time they choose by their own free will or are forced to pass on the chair again. The Senate order of Succession is as follows

1. Deputy Speaker of the Senate
2. Legislative Director
3. Historian
4. Sergeant at Arms
- ~~5. Chair of University Services Oversight Committee~~

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

New Business

Agenda Item: E

Author: Muslim Student Association

Sponsor: Deputy Speaker English, Senator Sofia

First Reading

3 November 2023

ENROLLED SENATE RESOLUTION 55021
Fifty-Fifth Session

Summary: A resolution to Advocate for NIU SGA and NIU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students and all Impacted Students

Legislation:

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association and Northern Illinois University acknowledge the stolen ancestral land of the Anishinaabe Council of the Three Fires of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples this university resides on and address the ethnic cleansing committed against Native Americans during the colonization of America; and,

WHEREAS, In previous years, the University has released statements and addressed different political conflicts of oppression; and,

WHEREAS, The systemic brutalization and torture that the Palestinian people have endured daily since 1948¹ is left without representation and acknowledgment of their ongoing oppression, disregarding the innocent lives lost; and,

WHEREAS, Under International Law, the Palestinian people have the right to defend against colonialism and apartheid experienced in the two separate “established territories,” Gaza and the West Bank, in which Israel still exerts control over; and,

WHEREAS, Israel controls all economic aspects of Palestinian welfare² alongside travel restrictions

¹ <https://www.un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba/>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/israels-practices-against-palestinian-economy-exacerbating-dire-living-conditions-occupied-territory-syrian-golan-senior-official-tells-second-committee>

placed on Palestinians within and outside of the West Bank and Gaza, creating a caste system using identification cards to heavily limit Palestinians and their movement and strip them of many of their basic human rights while demonstrating the total control they have over Gaza³; and,

WHEREAS, Israel has violated 28 resolutions⁴ of the United Nations Security Council (which are legally binding on member-nations U.N. Charter, Article 25 (1945); a few sample resolutions - 54, 111, 233, 234, 236, 248, 250, 252, 256, 262, 267, 270, 280, 285, 298, 313, 316, 468, 476; and,

WHEREAS, The effect of Israel's state-sanctioned violence is not only limited to Palestinian students, but all those that support Palestinian resistance since they face retaliation and educational, professional, and personal threats from organization such as, but not limited to, the Canary Mission⁵; and,

WHEREAS, The Jewish and Israeli people are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government and the Palestinian fight is not defined by Hamas' actions, rather the Palestinian fight is rooted in resisting colonization and oppression for all within the region; and,

WHEREAS, Violence from the Israeli government and Hamas should never be condoned and all civilian casualties should be condemned, furthermore the ongoing war stems from decades of oppression and violence under the Israeli regime; and,

WHEREAS, The oppression and war crimes committed against Palestinians and Arabs residing in Israel, especially those in Gaza, has driven them to engage in this mass movement of decolonization; and,

WHEREAS, Condemning Israeli nationalism and Israel's political Zionism is not condemning the

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67051292>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/11/gaza-sealed-palestinians-face-aid-freezes-too>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/gaza-cut-off-from-food-water-and-fuel-as-israels-punishing-bombardment-continues>

⁴ http://itisapartheid.org/Documents_pdf_etc/IsraelViolationsInternationalLaw.pdf

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses>

⁵ <https://againstcanarymission.org/what-is-canary-mission/>

<https://canarymission.org/about>

Jewish right to a safe homeland; rather, it is a movement against the British colonial project that established Israel, the continuance of that project, and the mass murder of many innocent lives regardless of their religion, race, age, gender, etc; and,

WHEREAS, Palestinian students have consistently and continue to feel unheard and unrecognized by NIU SGA and the University for disregarding the ongoing crisis, despite standing policy to advocate for Palestinian students

THEREFORE, This resolution condemns any behavior that would invalidate and endanger those who may be grieving due to recent events that have transpired, including those of Jewish and/or Israeli origin; and,

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will release a statement in collaboration with affected student groups including the resolution authors, sponsors, and contributors condemning islamophobia, antisemitism, and overall acts and/or words of hate while providing campus resources for the Huskie community including but not limited to mental health and educational/informational resources; and,

THEREFORE, NIU SGA will support Palestinian, Arab, Jewish, Muslim, and allied people according to this resolution.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.