



Student Government Association Transitions Virtually Due To COVID-19

Student Government Association

DeKalb – 04.09.2020 – The Northern Illinois University Student Government

Association is committed to keeping our students informed through this dynamic and stressful time. As we shift to a virtual approach, we will continue to advocate and recognize the needs of the student body. Members of the SGA can be approached through the Teams app or by email. In addition, students can set up appointments with SGA members and meet through video conferencing.

Elections

To begin, elections were made accessible online on HuskieLink. As we advertised through our social media outlets and sent out mass emails to the student body, over 250 students voted in this election. "Although we are experiencing an unprecedented situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the NIU Student Government Association remains committed to ensuring the future of NIU's students. This election was not ideal, but it displayed the resourcefulness and determination of our student leaders." said Devlin Collins, SGA Election Commissioner.

The new executive cabinet for the following school year of 2020 to 2021 includes: Antonio Johnson (President), Kyle Jacobson (Vice President), Devohn Hall (Treasurer), Aidan Shields (Student Trustee). "I believe we will move forward from this Pandemic next year by sticking together as one Community here at NIU and encouraging each other to keep going and



reaching our goals because Huskies never quit.” said Antonio Johnson, the newly elected president.

Senate Meetings

Going forward, The Student Government Association Senate will be meeting virtually on April 5, 19, and 26 at 5pm to finish the outstanding business of the 51st Session. The SGA Senate is requesting that public comments be submitted in writing to be read into the record at each remaining Senate meeting. Comments may be submitted to Speaker Ian Pearson at ipearson1@niu.edu. Anyone may virtually attend a meeting, links and dial-in information will be included at the top of each meeting agenda (posted no later than 5pm of the Friday preceding the meeting). Each agenda will be publicly posted on our HuskieLink page and will include the meeting information (Blackboard Collaborate and phone dial-in). “We will be looking to elect a Speaker for next year, pass a Fiscal Year 2021 budget, and confirm any cabinet nominees across those three meetings. We are going to invariably have some technical difficulties as we adapt to new platforms so we appreciate everyone’s patience and are committed to doing our best!” said Ian Pearson, Speaker of the SGA Senate.

Grading Policy

A new grading policy was passed to adjust to these unprecedented times. As we continue to advocate for the students, the students were asked on their opinions on the possibility of a pass/fail system. The opinions were mixed but overall students gave concrete reasons for why they were for or against such a switch. Naomi Bolden, SGA President said, “Many were

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concerned that their hard work to raise their GPAs would go down the drain if we switched a pass/fail system mid semester. I'm happy, however, that students have the right to choose which courses they want or don't want a letter grade in."

Virtual Platforms

The Student Government Association's mission remains the same, to provide the most support to the student body. Thus, Naomi Bolden, SGA President, has begun a Twitter feed to help keep student informed. "I am confident the SGA will adjust to a virtual platform with no problem. As millennials we are already familiar with connecting and communicating with each other digitally and this experience will prepare us for future situations like this one." said Naomi Bolden, SGA President.

More information in regards to initiatives being taken by the university can also be found on the main SGA Twitter account, Facebook and Instagram account. Please reference at the bottom for social media platforms. We will continue to use social media as an approach to keep you all informed of changes within SGA during this period. Correspondingly, please refer to NIU's COVID-19 site for more details and updates taken by the university.

Our Vision

As everyone works together during this stressful period, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Student Government Association. Please inform SGA of any obstacles being faced due to this shift of events. Ultimately, the Northern Illinois University Student Government

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Association is dedicated to supporting the student body and taking initiative to accommodate to the needs of the students.

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For more information on Our Vision:

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