**Sponsors: Senator Rardin, Ex Officio Bonilla**

**Cosponsors: Senator Fulton, Senator Duffy, Senator Myers, Senator Taylor, Senator Holmes, Senator Smith**

*Amendment to the Legislative Bylaws for the Inclusion and Representation of All Students*

WHEREAS, The Student Government Association is the official student governing body for Illinois State University;

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Constitution, Article II, Section 3, establishes the Student Government Association for “the purpose of this student government shall be to actively represent the Student Body in the shared governance process;”

WHEREAS, it is necessary that the language of the Student Government Association’s governing documents therefore likewise allow for the representation of the student body in its totality;

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Legislative Bylaws has gender-specific language which does not fully represent those students at Illinois State University of non-binary gender identity;

WHEREAS, amending instances of using “he/him/his” and “she/her/hers” pronouns in the language of the governing documents to rather use the gender-neutral singular “they/them/their” pronoun would allow for better representation of those students with non-binary gender identity, therefore better fulfilling the Association’s constitutionally enumerated purpose;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, all instances of gender-specific language in the bylaws shall be amended to rather use gender-neutral language, substituting either a relevant specific noun or variations of the pronoun “they” for instances of variations of the pronouns “he” and “she;”

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the specific changes to be made are listed as follows (elements bolded below are for clarity by emphasis and shall not be bolded in the actual document):

**Article II, Section 5, subsection A**

“A. Each Senator shall receive hourly pay beginning in the spring semester immediately after the Senators are sworn in and their paperwork with the Dean of Students office is completed. **They** shall receive pay based on the number of hours worked per week. Payment rates shall be established annually through the student fee review process and executed by the Dean of Students Business Office, in consultation with the SGA Advisor.”

**Article III, Section 3, subsection A**

“A. To serve as chairperson and primary spokesperson for **their** respective committee.”

**Article III, Section 4, Subsection C**

“C. To utilize available SGA resources, when necessary, with the approval of and under the supervision of the President of the Assembly or their designee.”

**Article V, Section 4, Subsection C**

“C. The Performance Review Committee will be made up of the Student Body President, one Officer of the Assembly (in order of position), two committee chairs assigned by the President of the Assembly or **their** designee, and one senator at large assigned by the President of the Assembly or **their** designee.”

**Article V, Section 5, Subsection B, item iii**

“iii. In casting **their** vote, each Senator is asked to consider the following:”

**Article V, Section 5, Subsection B, item iii, sub-item a**

“a. Representative voting: for all bills, resolutions, the SGA Constitution (as it is a contract with the student body) and any action taken on behalf of the student body, a Senator is required to garner constituent feedback and to vote in accordance with that feedback. In instances where insufficient or no constituent responses are received by a Senator, then that Senator acts as trustee for **their** constituents, voting **their** opinion.”

**Article V, Section 8, Subsection D**

“D. Each Senator must be able to cite **their** constituent contact to justify **their** voting record.”

**Article V, Section 10, Subsection d, item vi**

“vi. To monitor the contact between each Senator and **their** constituency as reported by the Vice President of the Assembly.”

**Article VI, Section 2, Subsection A**

“A. If any legislative branch member accumulates three (3) unexcused absences during one full administrative term, **they are** automatically removed from **their** position following the third unexcused absence regardless of the reason. Unexcused absences may not be made up.”

**Article VI, Section 2, Subsection I**

“I. Except in the case of personal or medical emergency, the Legislative Branch Member must present **their** case to the Secretary of the Assembly within forty-eight (48) hours if **they are** seeking a status change for the absence in question. In the event of a personal or medical emergency, the Legislative Branch Member must present **their** case to the Secretary of the Assembly within forty-eight (48) hours of the absences if **they are** seeking a status change for the absence in question. If this absence is not reviewed before the next SGA Assembly Meeting, the absence will automatically be considered an unexcused absence regardless of the reason.”

**Article VI, Section 2, Subsection J**

“J. If a Legislative Branch Member is unable to attend/participate in a mandatory event for one of the following reasons, **they** shall be marked as “not present;” and the absence will not be recorded as either excused or unexcused: Illinois State University courses scheduled to meet at the time of the event, personal or medical emergencies such as but not limited to deaths and/or hospitalization, and work in the case where the schedule has been set at the time the mandatory event was announced.”

**Article VI, Section 2, Subsection M**

“M. Any Legislative Branch Member removed for attendance policy violations by the Secretary of the Assembly on behalf of the SGA Executive Committee will have the chance to appeal before the full Assembly. The Assembly then has the chance to question both members of the SGA Executive Committee and the Legislative Branch Member in question. After questions, both sides shall have the chance to present **their** final statements. The Legislative Branch Member must then receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority affirmation of the Assembly Senators present and voting to retain **their** office.”

Adopted by the Assembly of the Student Government Association on the **DATE** day of **MONTH**, **YEAR**.

We hereunto set our hands in affirmation of the adoption of this resolution by the Assembly of the Student Government Association:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Body President President of the Assembly

I hereunto set my hand in witness and certification of the adoption of this resolution by the Assembly of the Student Government Association:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Secretary of the Assembly

Vote:  \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ N