



Faculty Governance at Northeastern University

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Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate, together with the Administration, maintains and improves the academic standards of the University and makes the functioning of the University more effective and harmonious.

It is the highest faculty governance body in the University.

Senate Responsibilities (1)

- To act as a coordinating body to establish mutually satisfactory academic goals and standards among the Colleges.
- To be consulted on all policies, proposals, and problems of faculty concern, including the creation of new colleges, campuses, and departments.
- To be the final faculty body to deliberate and act upon recommendations from university curriculum committees.

Senate Responsibilities (2)

- To initiate consideration and recommendation on any matter of faculty concern.
- To undertake legislative and advisory functions in connection with the work of the University, as referred to it by the President and/or the Board of Trustees.
- To provide communication between the University faculty and the Administration.

Why Should You Care?

Most faculty become senators because they want to create, improve, or completely change something.

Senators are some of the most informed and involved faculty at Northeastern.

- This makes them valuable resources and mentors.

Senators' decisions are informed by their constituents.

- **They represent you.**
- Get to know your Senators and discuss issues that are important to you.

2024-2025 Senate Activities

Managed Search Committees for 3 Deans and 5 Chairs

Managed 15 Administrator Evaluations: 1 Provost, 2 Deans, and 12 Chairs or Directors

Helped Organize Provost Search Committee

Passed 32 Resolutions, Including:

1. Change the Chair of the Faculty Senate from Provost to Chair of Senate Agenda Committee (SAC)
2. Increase number of consecutive terms a Faculty Senator can serve from 2 to 3
3. Add a Faculty Senator to the Policy Oversight Committee

2024-2025 Senate Activities

Approved 17 New Programs

- 1 Doctoral
- 7 Masters
- 8 Bachelors
- 1 Associates

Reactivated 2 Masters Programs

Managed 5 Faculty Grievances

2025-2026 Faculty Senate Priorities

Example (1)

Strengthen relationships between administrators and faculty so that we can best support our students and each other, and so that we can excel in the important work that we all agree needs to be done: teaching, research, and service.

- Improve communication (in both directions).
- Work together to get ahead of important issues: focus on being proactive, rather than reactive.

2025-2026 Faculty Senate Priorities

Example (2)

Support both Academic Freedom and Belonging

- Champion a culture that promotes viewpoint diversity and respectful debate about controversial topics, while embracing belonging for all members of our community.

53 Faculty Senate Members

Shared Governance Model

1 Provost

6 Administrators Appointed by the Provost

- Includes any Faculty Member in the Office of a Dean, Provost, or Chancellor

46 Full-Time Faculty

- Includes Chairs and Directors
- Senate Agenda Committee is Elected from among this Group

Senate Agenda Committee (SAC)

The Faculty Senate is lead by the elected 6-member Senate Agenda Committee (SAC)

- Chair
- Secretary
- 4 At-Large Members

SAC meets weekly throughout the year, including over the summer, to run the Faculty Senate.

SAC Responsibilities

1. Sets the agenda for all Faculty Senate meetings
2. Staffs all Standing Committees
3. Creates and staffs Ad Hoc Committees
4. Meets bi-monthly with the Provost and the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
5. Provides consistent channel for consultation and communication between faculty and administration
6. Represents the faculty on university-level committees
7. Meets with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees

2025-2026 SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE



Prof. Dee Spencer,
Chair, DMSB



Prof. Heidi Kevoe
Feldman, Secretary,
CAMD



Prof. Michelle Carr,
CAMD



Prof. Adeel Bhutta,
Khoury



Prof. Darcelle Lahr,
MCNU



Prof. Cecelia
Musselman, CSSH

2025-2026 SENATORS

BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Connie Lorette
- Krystal Hinerman
- Andrew Orr-Skirvin
- Marketa Rejtar
- Joshua Stefanik
- Sarah Young-Hong

COLLEGE OF ARTS MEDIA AND DESIGN

- Michelle Carr (SAC)
- Heidi Kevoe Feldman (SAC Secretary)
- Clareese Hill
- Eileen McGivney
- Mark Sivak

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Debra Auguste
- Matthew Eckelman
- Bala Maheswaran
- Hari Parameswaran
- Aatmesh Shrivastava
- Jake Walker
- Yustianto Tjiptowidjojo

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

- Jacques Alexis
- Umesh Hodeghatta

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

- Amy DiBattista
- Alessandra Di Credico
- Paul Hand
- Veronica Godoy-Carter
- Erica Homan
- Jennifer Ingemi
- Vaso Lykourinou

2025-2026 SENATORS

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

- Natalie Bormann
- Maria Ivanova
- Cecelia Musselman (SAC)
- Nikos Passas
- Isabel Sobral Campos
- Louise Walker

D'AMORE-MCKIM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- John Bai
- Paul Chiou
- Anna Lamin
- Dee Spencer (SAC Chair)
- Annique Un

KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

- Adeel Bhutta (SAC)
- Peter Desnoyers
- Lama Hamandi
- Felix Muzny

MILLS COLLEGE AT NORTHEASTERN

- Maia Averett
- Darcelle Lahr (SAC)

SCHOOL OF LAW

- Elizabeth Bloom
- Richard Daynard (fall)
- Johathan Kahn (spring)

How Can You Learn More?

Stay Informed

- Faculty Senate meets twice a month (Wed: 11:45-1:25). Meetings are virtual and open to all faculty... attend them.
- Senate meeting agendas are e-mailed to all faculty, one week in advance... read them.
- The Faculty Senate website and the Faculty Handbook are rich sources of information for all faculty ...review them.

The Faculty Senate Website

<https://faculty.northeastern.edu/senate/>

Comprehensive Information About

- Elected Senators
- Committees
- Meeting Agendas and Minutes
- Resolutions

The Faculty Handbook

<https://faculty.northeastern.edu/handbook/>

Contains Policy Information About

- University Governance
- Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure
- Faculty Rights and Responsibilities
- Personnel Policies
- University Academic Organization

Other Important Documents

Student Handbook

[Student Handbook < Northeastern University Academic Catalog](#)

University Policies Website

<https://policies.northeastern.edu>

How Can You Get Involved?

Be Heard

- Discuss Senate/University topics with your senators and make your opinion known.
- You do not have to be a senator to contribute at Faculty Senate meetings. Raise your hand and I will recognize you to speak.
- Reach out to us. We address each concern we receive and respect confidentiality requests, when necessary.

Facultysenate@northeastern.edu

How Can You Get Involved?

Be Active

- Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees work on critical university-wide topics... volunteer to serve on one that you are genuinely interested in.
- Each spring, we send a survey for committee volunteers. We select the committee members from these surveys.

Senate Standing Committees

1. Senate Agenda Committee (SAC)
2. University Undergraduate Curriculum (UUCC)
3. University Graduate Curriculum (UGCC)
4. Faculty Development (FDC)
5. Financial Affairs (FAC)
6. Administrator Evaluation and Oversight (AEOC)
7. Full-time Non-Tenure-Track Faculty (FTNTTC)
8. Academic Policy (APC)
9. Belonging
10. Global Education (GEC)
11. Faculty Handbook

Senate Ad Hoc Committees

1. Shared Governance
2. TRACE
3. HR Benefits Taskforce
4. Academic Freedom
5. Grievance
 - Committees uniquely constituted for each grievance

Questions?

