

# Northeastern University

## Faculty Senate

### SENATE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

The Faculty Senate acts as a coordinating body to provide communication between the Administration and general University faculty, and to initiate consideration on any matter of faculty concern.

The responsibility of SAC is to maintain and improve the academic standards of the University and make the functioning of the University more effective and harmonious. They also work to coordinate activities among the various College faculties as well as those that involve both the administration and faculty of the University.

For more information, please visit the [senate website](#)

Faculty concern?

1. Reach out to your senators
2. Complete our new [faculty concern form](#)



#### 9/11, 9/25, 10/16 and 10/30/2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Highlights

#### 9/11/2024 SENATE MEETING

#### SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT (PROFESSOR HEIDI KEVOE FELDMAN)

- Introduction of the new student SGA representative to the Senate, Ada Spiwak, a fourth-year Journalism & Political Science major from Bogotá, Colombia.
- Introduction of the new members of Senate Agenda Committee 2024-2025: Heidi Kevoe Feldman (Chair), Dee Spencer (Secretary), Laney Strange, Ted Landsmark, Darcelle Lahr, and Michelle Carr.
- This year SAC wanted to focus on collaboration with the administration.
- Review of Senate meetings and procedures.
- Update on SAC meetings: Summer 2024 SAC met 3 times and met with the Provost's Office once.
- Senate committees are now fully staffed, charges have been finalized and are posted to the Senate's website.
- Search Committee work is ongoing.
- Boston – United Realty Building Asbestos Update – issues have been addressed and fixed, scheduling air testing and particle sampling will happen this Fall with a new contractor.
- Update to the Senate Website

#### Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings

**Please join us for our virtual Teams meetings!**

**Fall 2024 semester meetings (Wednesday's 11:45am -1:25 pm EST):**

- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- December 11<sup>th</sup>

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- Administrator Evaluations Oversight Committee (AEOC) – 16 administrators under review this year – we encourage faculty to participate in the surveys as they become available.

### PROVOST'S REPORT (PROVOST MADIGAN)

- Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall there were almost 500 people at the peak of the meeting – more to come.
- Leadership retreat a couple of weeks ago on the Boston campus - focus was AI and thinking what does higher ED look like with AI.
- AI in Action online Bootcamp occurring Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> and open to all faculty, staff and students. There are currently 3,000 people registered for the event including 1,000 alums.
- Updated policy on protests that can be found on the policies website: <https://policies.northeastern.edu/policy617/>.
- Marymount Manhattan College merger. The earliest the merger could take effect would be the summer of 2025. This merger will be revenue positive to the university.
- Richard O'Bryant, Director of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute has been appointed Northeastern's Chief Inclusion and Belonging Officer, effective immediately.

### PRESENTATION:

DEBRA L. FRANKO, PH.D., SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY - **INITIATIVES AND WHO'S WHO IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.**

- Sr. Vice Provost Franko gave an overview of her office reviewing the various members and the members of ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development. She reviewed the many various areas of responsibilities of the office including Tenure and Promotion, Leadership Training, NECHE accreditation, Global Safety & Security Assessment Committee, and the Policy Oversight Committee.
- Review of Faculty Development plans in the Network for 2024\_2025 and updates on initiatives in Mental Health Matters for Faculty, Staff, and Students.
- New resource for students now available: Togetherall offering a safe, online peer-to-peer mental health community for students that is monitored and moderated 24/7 by licensed clinicians.

### PRESENTATION:

SATYA DATTA GUPTA, CHIEF ENROLLMENT OFFICER, EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR & SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT - **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE FALL 2024**

- This Fall the university welcomed one of the most exciting undergraduate classes with students from all walks of life with an average GPA of 4.4.
- This has been one of the most challenging years in enrollment management due to problems around the federal application for student financial aid that caused havoc across the entire industry.



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- Northeastern received 98,124 applications this past year for acceptance rate of 5.2%. The University's yield was a record high of about 54% and saw 52% growth in applications just over the last five years.
- We are the largest global campus network in the world
- Boston, we welcomed about 2,780 students this year. The London Scholars program welcomed 643 students, NUin welcomed 1,543 students, Oakland welcomed 463 full time students, Global scholars welcomed 714 students, and the London dual degree program welcomed 158 students this year.
- Global Scholars program will be eliminated in the coming year due to feedback. They plan to increase admissions to London scholars' program; Oakland and they will be adding a new program called New York City Scholars after the Marymount merger.
- Acceptance rate - this year we will finish at about 5%, making us the most selective institution in the entire cohort of institutions that we compete with.
- Two years ago, Provost Madigan made a significant investment with Chancellor Henderson and Vice Chancellor Dattagupta in domestic graduate enrollment. As a result of those investments, our domestic enrollment has almost doubled in the last two years.

### 9/25/2024 SENATE MEETING

#### SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT (PROFESSOR HEIDI KEVOE FELDMAN)

- SAC met once since the last senate meeting.
- **Search updates:** COE, Depart. Of Civil and Environmental Engineering will have a broad search for a new chair. The COS will undertake internal chair searches for the Department of Mathematics and Department of Psychology.
- Senate Office can now make changes to the Faculty Handbook.
- Prof. Carr talked about streamlining the process for curriculum approval.

#### PROVOST'S REPORT (PROVOST MADIGAN)

- Announcement of the 115th anniversary of Co-op.
- There was a successful AI in Action Boot Camp that had 1829 participants.
- The Provost Office has launched an honorific award newsletter.
- Davis Bookhart joined Northeastern's Policy School from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, an expert in sustainability, in the. He has various initiatives underway.
- There is a Global Sustainability summit happening on campus hosted by the Center for Emerging Markets in DMSB on October 5th

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### ACADEMIC PROPOSAL:

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN. (PROFESSOR HEIDI KEVOE-FELDMAN) - **Master of Science in Media, Technology, and Ethics, MS (PASSED 39-1-0)**



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### **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL:**

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN. (PROFESSOR MARK SIVAK) - **Master of Science in Creative Technologies, MS (PASSED: 40-1-0)**

### **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL:**

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE of ARTS, MEDIA AND DESIGN. (PROFESSOR MARK SIVAK) - **Master of Fine Arts in Creative Practices and Technology, MFA (PASSED: 38-1-2)**

### **PRESENTATION:**

MAUREEN O'SHEA ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION - **UPDATE ON INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT: INCLUDING DIRECT ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES, ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESSES AND THE ASSESSMENT OF NUPATH ATTRIBUTE LEARNING GOALS**

- Overview of academic program quality activities.
- Direct assessment program, annual reports and their NUpath core curriculum.
- Direct assessment of program learning outcomes in HelioCampus.
- Talk about assessment in terms of defining the program learning outcomes and mapping the courses to those program learning outcomes.
- Looking at how the faculty align assignments to that curriculum and ask faculty to grade those assignments.
- The data is collected in HelioCampus, and we develop action items for continuous improvement.
- The way HelioCampus is implemented at Northeastern, we use an embedded assessment practice that's really considered a best practice.

### **10/16/2024 SENATE MEETING**

### **SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT (PROFESSOR HEIDI KEVOE FELDMAN)**

- SAC met twice as a committee and once with the Provost's Office.
- SAC met recently with the Financial Affairs Committee (FAC) and discussed strategies for pay increases as well as the equity adjustment process.
- SAC received a letter from a group of faculty regarding academic freedom, wherein they requested that the Faculty Senate review a proposed resolution to the Faculty Handbook.
- Professor Kris Manjapra, CSSH, read this resolution aloud.
- SAC forwarded this request to the Faculty Handbook Committee for their consideration.

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- Follow up on topics from the 9/25 senate meeting; bathroom locks in Mugar Hall and Dodge Hall, and power cords and computers have been removed from many of the global network classrooms.
- Professor Kevoe-Feldman has received several emails about standing committees that SAC did not staff this year. SAC is reviewing the past reports, recommendations, and resolutions of these to make sure past work is being implemented and she is working on future charges.
- SAC is working on developing a proposal with the Provost for a Town Hall meeting in January regarding the Global Network.
- Charges for the HR Benefit Task Force are under review. The key objective for this group is tuition exchange.



### PROVOST'S REPORT (PROVOST MADIGAN)

- Dean Elizabeth Hudson, CAMD, is stepping down at the end of this year.
- Professor Javed Aslam has been appointed as the Chief of Artificial Intelligence at the University to oversee AI work streams and ensure that we are keeping pace with the AI wave.
- Mental Health Awareness week is Oct. 14-18<sup>th</sup> and there are many related activities across campus.
- On October 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Life Sciences Day focused on Life Sciences research.
- There is now a Classroom Dashboard that faculty may find useful. It indicates what specific technology is in a classroom, the seating capacity, seating arrangement, and 360-degree photographs of the classroom.
- It is the 30th anniversary of the Dialogues of Civilization.
- Planning Real Estate & Facilities have released a Climate Justice Action Plan which addresses our institutional goals around sustainability and climate justice on all our campuses.

### PRESENTATION:

KRIS K. MANJAPRA, PHD, STEARNS TRUSTEE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND GLOBAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY | DEPARTMENT OF CULTURES, SOCIETIES AND GLOBAL STUDIES AFRICANA AND GLOBAL ASIAN STUDIES - **FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY.**

- Professor Manjapra said that a group of faculty are concerned about academic freedom, freedom of speech, faculty safety, and democracy in higher education.
- On October 5<sup>th</sup>, faculty learned (via an article in the Huntington News) about a policy change published as **Policy and Demonstrations** on the Northeastern University website.
- Professor Manjapra said he believed faculty were not involved in the development of this policy. He indicated that the language threatens to hamper the core competencies of our faculty (research, teaching, care for students, and contribution to democratic discourse in society).

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- He also noted that the language on Freedom of Speech in our Handbook is weak, and it is out of date and does not align with the standards of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which protects for extramural speech, controversial speech, and peaceful protest by faculty.
- Professor Manjapra read into the record a draft resolution that the faculty group submitted for review to the Senate Agenda Committee. *See senate notes for full details.*
- Professor Kevoe-Feldman indicated that academic freedom is referenced in two places in the Faculty Handbook: in the Rights and Teaching, Research and Scholarship Module under Academic Freedom; and under the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure module, as well under Tenured Faculty.
- *Discussion continued later in the meeting.*

### **PRESENTATION:**

**KHUSHAL SAFI, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT GLOBAL SAFETY - GLOBAL SAFETY**

#### **PREDEPARTURE ORIENTATION**

- Overview of the policies related to travel and some of the ways his group supports faculty and staff who are traveling.
- Made note of the departments E-mail: [mytravelplans@northeastern.edu](mailto:mytravelplans@northeastern.edu)  
Website: [www.globalsafety.northeastern.edu](http://www.globalsafety.northeastern.edu) and the 24/7 International Assistance Hotline is: 1-857-214-5332.
- The phone number will connect faculty and staff to their benefits hotline which will connect faculty and staff with medical assistance or safety assistance while traveling abroad on university business.
- They also work with the Global Operations Center, the GSOC which is now a 24-7 security center monitoring any kind of threats or risks to the university, especially those related to travelers all over the world.
- When traveling with/for the university, travelers are required to register their travel. Faculty can register their travel plans on the Employee hub: enter "My Travel Plans."

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST (PROFESSOR JACQUES ALEXIS) - Master of Professional Studies in Applied AI, MPS (PASSED: 39-0-0)**

**ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST (PROFESSOR JACQUES ALEXIS) - Master of Professional Studies in Applied AI--Connect, MPS (PASSED: 37-0-0)**

**ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST (PROFESSOR JACQUES ALEXIS) - Doctor of Professional Studies (DPS) (PASSED: 32-3-2)**

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**ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (PROFESSOR MATTHEW ECKELMAN) - Master of Science in Sustainability Engineering Leadership, MS (PASSED: 35-0-1)**

**10/30/2024 SENATE MEETING**

**OPENING REMARKS:**

**SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE SECRETARY. DEE SPENCER, DMSB.**

- Overview of the work on the Senate and the Senate Agenda Committee.
- Reviewed the Academic Freedom module of the Faculty Handbook and how the AAUP describes Academic Freedom.
- Noted a great deal of consternation resulted from the “Safe Campuses, Civil Discourse: Frequently Asked Questions” site. She noted that the site is being updated and much of the language that faculty find objectionable will be removed.

**PROVOST REMARKS (PROVOST MADIGAN):**

- Provost Madigan said there are mature processes for updating both the Faculty Handbook and the University policies, thus this type of discussion is appropriate. He indicated that the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are not policy and that every major university has FAQs.
- Provost Madigan acknowledged Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Michael Armini, to discuss the intent of the FAQs.
- Senior Vice President Armini indicated that the “Safe Campuses, Civil Discourse: Frequently Asked Questions” site (FAQ) was posted approximately 10 months ago, in response to receiving hundreds of inquiries from a variety of constituencies, including parents of undergraduate students and alumni.
- The purpose of the FAQs is to explain the University's position in clear language.
- The Faculty Handbook is the governing document.
- Professor Shrivvastava, COE senator, asked if there were faculty on the Policy Oversight Committee. Professor Kevoe-Feldman affirmed that there are no faculty members on that Policy Oversight Committee, and the Senate should discuss this.
- Provost Madigan indicated that Sr. Vice Provost Franko serves on the committee. He noted that she is also an administrator and that there could be faculty representation on the committee as well.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

- Professor Walker, CSSH senator, proposed the FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION resolution for a vote. Professor Lykourinou seconded the motion. *See senate notes for full language.*



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- Professor Kahn, SOL senator and Parliamentarian, moved to postpone consideration of this motion to a later date. Professor Ted Landmark seconded this motion. Professor Carr, CAMD senator, asked to specify the consideration date.
- **A motion to consider a revised academic freedom resolution during the November 20 Faculty Senate meeting (PASSED: 38-0-0)**

### **HELPFUL MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING RESOURCES**

#### **For students/helping students:**

[Northeastern University Health and Counseling Services](#)

[Find@Northeastern for students](#)

[We Care for students](#)

[Faculty Guide: Supporting Student Mental Health](#)

[OPEN: Alcohol and other Drug and Sexual Violence Services](#)

[Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service](#)

[Disability Resource Center](#)

#### **For faculty/staff:**

[NU Mental Health resources for faculty/staff](#)

[Provost office series on Coping with COVID-19](#)

[HR Wellness resources](#)

[NU Ombuds for faculty/staff](#)

[NU Employee Assistance Program](#)

