

Faculty Senate Meeting September 17, 2025

SAC Report



Agenda

- SAC Report
- Approval of April 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- President Aoun's Annual Address to the Faculty Senate
- Provost's Report (Provost Winkelstein)
- Questions and Discussion
- Presentation: Khushal Safi, Associate Vice President Global Safety
- Resolution (Professor Louise Walker)
- New Business

Welcome

- Welcome senators and administrators — thank you for your service and commitment to shared governance
- Thank you in advance to the many individuals who will appear before this body throughout the year to keep us informed
- Special recognition to the Senate Agenda Committee members who do *so much work* behind the scenes to keep the Senate running effectively

2025-2026 SENATE AGENDA COMMITTEE



Dee Spencer,
Chair, DMSB



Heidi Kevoe Feldman,
Secretary, CAMD



Michelle Carr,
CAMD



Adeel Bhutta,
Khoury



Darcelle Lahr,
MCNU



Cecelia Musselman,
CSSH

SAC Goals

- Improve faculty and student support
- Make Faculty Senate stronger and more productive
- Advance shared governance partnerships
- Bring about meaningful change in areas that need improvement

We do this by crafting resolutions that are specific, actionable, and supported by the administration

- SAC members taking active role mentoring committees
- All committees receive resolution-writing best practices
- If the administration does not support our resolutions, we do not make progress

Faculty and Administration: Our Shared Mission

- Institutional health and sustainability
- Academic excellence in teaching and research
- Student success and support
- Strong leadership at all levels
- Meaningful work and professional fulfillment
- Faculty empowerment and recognition
- Enhanced communication and collaboration

Challenges

Challenge: The Historical “Us vs Them” Dynamic

- Faculty felt excluded from key decision-making
- Administrators felt attacked when they appeared before Faculty Senate
- This hurts our shared mission

The Path Forward

Proposed Path Forward

- Get ahead of issues through proactive collaboration
- Establish regular communication, beyond formal meetings and crisis moments
- Actively support each other's success

For Administrators

- Share information early and often on emerging issues
- Engage faculty counsel before decisions are finalized

For Faculty

- Approach challenges with constructive problem-solving, rather than opposition

Meeting Procedures

- Robert's Rules govern meeting procedures
- Agendas & minutes e-mailed one week prior to meetings
- All faculty welcome to attend
- Link available from facultysenate@northeastern.edu
- Voting is restricted to senators and appointed administrators

Speaking Protocol

- Use raise hand function & wait to be recognized
- Non-senators may speak after being recognized by a senator
- To encourage broad participation, please allow others to speak before raising your hand to speak again

New Procedures: Managing Meeting Time

- Last year, we struggled to complete agendas, as discussions often veered off topic
- To help us stay on schedule, please save questions that are unrelated to agenda items for the New Business section
- During New Business, you may raise any concerns not covered elsewhere on the agenda
- Topics requiring extended discussion will be considered by SAC for future agendas
- Provost Q & A remains open for any questions

New Procedures: Committee Presentations

- Historically, we have had difficulty scheduling committee presentations.
 - 6-8-hour marathon meetings at the end of the year
 - Committee presentations rushed or cut short
 - Unfair to faculty who deserve adequate time to present their work
 - Unproductive for senators who vote on it
- This year, we have 11 standing committees, 4 Ad Hoc Committees, and an unknown number of Grievance Committees

New Procedures: Committee Presentations

- Presentations dates already assigned for this year
- Presentations begin early in the spring semester
- This will ensure that the committees who work hard all year have more time to deliver their findings

New Procedures: Approving Meeting Minutes

- This will normally be our first order of business
- I will ask if there are any objections to the minutes
- If there are none, I will declare the minutes approved by unanimous consent
- If discussion results in an amendment, I will ask for a motion to approve the minutes, as amended
- Moving forward, please review the minutes promptly after receiving them
- Send corrections to the faculty senate within 4 calendar days

Approval of 4/23/2025 Minutes

Questions?

