



Present: Professors Alexis, Averett, Bai, Bhutta, Bloom, Carr, Chiou, Daynard, Desnoyers, DiBattista, Di Credico, Godoy-Carter, Hamandi, Hand, Hill, Hinerman, Hodeghatta, Homan, Ingemi, Ivanova, Kevoe-Feldman, Lahr, Lamin, Lorette, Lykourinou, Maheswaran, McGivney, Musselman, Muzny, Orr-Skirvin, Parameswaran, Passas, Rejtar, Shrivastava, Sivak, Sobral-Campos, Spencer, Stefanik, Tjiptowidjojo, Walker J., Walker L., Young-Hong.

Administrators: Winkelstein, Alshawabkeh, Auclair, Dyal-Chand, Isaacs, Jackson, Tsai.

Absent: (Professors): Auguste, Bormann, Eckelman, Rawson, Un.

Absent: (Administrators):

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. The minutes for the 9_17_25 Senate meeting were approved

II. **SAC REPORT** (The SAC report has been posted to the Senate website.)

Senate Chair Dee Spencer, DMSB, reviewed the meeting agenda and speaking protocols.

- Since the last senate meeting, SAC has met three times, and once with the provost.
- Prof. John Bai will serve as our parliamentarian for the fall semester.
- Prof. Simon Rabinovitch has requested to postpone discussion of his resolution until the 10_22 Senate meeting.

III. **PROVOST REPORT.**

Provost Winkelstein noted that Otonye Braide-Moncoeur, Provost Fellow for Faculty Awards and Recognition, sends a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting recent award recipients and award opportunities. For more information about this email at o.braide-moncoeur@northeastern.edu.

The Provost referenced her email communication of Oct. 1st and assured faculty that they continue to monitor the situation with the US government shutdown with colleagues in the General Counsel Office, Research Services, and Government Affairs.

The Provost noted that resources and information about AI engagement across our campuses can be found at the new ITS AI hub at <https://its.northeastern.edu/ai/>.

There is information at this site on Claude.AI, Microsoft Copilot and AI for Microsoft Teams.

As of now, 23,000 accounts have been claimed with almost 15,000 monthly active users.

Almost 1/3 of the group use Claude daily and more than 1/3 have created customized projects.

The Provost announced the Building a Culture of Belonging conference that will be offered in person and with hybrid capability October 27th and 28th. Additional information can be found at the website: <https://belonging.northeastern.edu>.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Godoy Carter, COS, reminded the Provost that many faculty continue to be concerned about restrictions around funding.

She also said she has been trying to use Claude in her biochemistry class and has had many difficulties. The internet has died many times in the classroom and other faculty have had this problem as well. This has been an ongoing issue.

Provost Winkelstein said she has been working with the deans and their teams to help them think through aligning their priorities around budgetary matters. The Provost will be meeting monthly with each college to check in on their budgets.

Prof. Walker, CSSH, followed up on Prof. Suzanna Walters' request from the 9_17 senate meeting for data that would demonstrate how many millions may have been lost to federal grant changes and/or lost in expected reduction in the enrollment of international students.

The Provost said she would not give any information today because she didn't want to give incorrect information. She emphasized she will be meeting with the senate's Financial Affairs Com. to discuss budgetary matters.

Prof. Carr, CAMD, and Prof. Shrivastava, COE, said they also had internet connection problems, and this made it difficult to manage a class.

Provost Winkelstein said she will bring these concerns back to IT and perhaps IT can come to the senate to answer some questions.

IV. CONTINUED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION (PROFESSOR LOUISE WALKER):

Be it resolved that the University leadership, through the Office of the President, publicly commits to the following principles: to protect targeted members of the University community, especially but not exclusively noncitizens of the United States and transgender community members; to protect, by litigation if necessary, academic freedom and institutional independence as core values of the University and its mission.

Prof. Walker shared that Prof. Rabinovich drafted a new version of the resolution and asked that it be discussed at the 10_22 senate meeting.

Professor Muzny (Khoury) spoke in favor of the resolution and expressed a desire for the administration to make a strong statement in support of members of the transgender community.

V. PRESENTATIONS

LIZ ZULICK, SR. VICE CHANCELLOR EDUCATION INNOVATION.

CO-OP UNIFICATION.

Sr. Vice Chancellor Zulick explained that the goal of the Co-op unification is to bring the program under one umbrella. The objective is to more efficiently, effectively, and equitably serve both our students and our employer partners; and to ensure that best practices are utilized in each location, on each campus, and that all students have access to that.

Currently, one-third of our students are pursuing combined majors, many of which are across different colleges. All of our Co-op opportunities are open to all students, and we have added a lot more students. Our organizational structure was not set up for the changes that have been made.

Northeastern celebrated 116 years of Co-op this past year. We are the 2nd university to build out a Co-op program. We have over 13,000 students a year who go on Co-op. We have over 20,000 partners in this space. It is key that we ensure continued success. By having a unified approach, it allows us to better serve partners and to more strategically manage and build stronger, longer lasting partner relationships. It's also a key component to tying education to the workforce in job attainment for students.

QUESTIONS and DISCUSSION:

Prof. Lahr, MCNU, asked if co-op opportunities are available to all students, including CPS.

Sr. Vice Chancellor Zulick said yes, including both undergraduate and graduate students. The gatekeeper to having access to the co-ops and having access to NUworks is completion of a co-op prep course.

Prof. Jean-Charles, CSSH, asked if the consolidation might result in layoffs for the people that currently work in the Co-op offices.

Sr. Vice Chancellor Zulick said that this is not a cost-saving exercise; there is no plan for faculty or staff reductions related to this. We do know that there are inequities that exist across colleges: salary inequities, differential faculty and staff utilization, and differential stipends. Those are all things we do plan to address.

Prof. Jean-Charles, CSSH, said that a number of students have had a desire to have more opportunities to work with nonprofits but have not had those opportunities

Sr. Vice Chancellor Zulick said we now have the data to help make strategic plans for how to grow Co-op opportunities across the board. We also have central funds that support unfunded or underfunded Co-ops. They are administered by the central Co-op team and we do have a strategic partnership with the advancement team about increasing the funds for those unfunded and underfunded co-ops.

**HR BENEFITS TASKFORCE
PROGRAM MANAGER CHRISTINE LITZINGER, BCHS.
PROFESSOR MONEESH UPMANYU, COE.**

HR BENEFITS TASKFORCE REPORT: 2024–25.

The presentation has been posted to the Senate website.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Kevoe-Feldman, CAMD, thanked the committee for their work. She asked what the committee sees as the next steps for their work?

Prof. Litzinger said that there should be more support for employees when their children begin the admissions process. A lot of information is difficult to access.

Prof. Upmanyu added that it would be helpful if the benefits program and the admissions office worked together more closely.

Prof. Passas, CSSH, shared that his son received a Dean's scholarship, but as the son of a faculty member could not use it. He was unable to use it for a Dialogue of Civilization or for any other use.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman