



# Northeastern University Faculty Senate

**TO:** Faculty Senate.

**SUBJECT:** 12\_10\_2025 Senate Minutes.

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

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

Absent: (Professors): Bai, Carr, Godoy-Carter, Ivanova, Orr-Skirvin, Parameswaran, Passas, Rawson, Shrivastava, Tjiptowidjojo.

Absent: (Administrators): Jackson, Tsai

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. The minutes for the 11\_19\_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.

- Announcements – Professor Darcelle Lahr and Professor Maia Averett will be stepping down from the Faculty Senate. Professor Kim Magowan will replace Professor Lahr, Professor Averett's search for replacement is underway.
- An election to fill Professor Lahr's seat on the Senate Agenda Committee (SAC) opened following the meeting and will close Friday at 5:00 PM. Three faculty candidates submitted statements, which were made available with the ballot.
- Since 11\_19 Senate meeting, SAC has held an elected senators' meeting. SAC did not meet with the Provost during this period due to the holiday break.

III. **PROVOST REPORT**

- Recognition of faculty named to Clarivate's 2025 Highly Cited Researchers list.
- The conclusion of the Research Development Leadership Initiative (REDI) program, with 22 faculty presenting projects.
- Submission of an application to NECHE for non-credit credential recognition through CPS.
- Confirmation of the Academic Honors Convocation for Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM.
- Announcement of a new issue of the Honorifics newsletter.

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

- Concerns were raised regarding recent budget reductions, their impact on the university's teaching and research missions, and requests were made for:
  - Regular updates to the Faculty Senate on budget matters.

- A presentation explaining the formulation of the university-wide academic budget.
- The Provost acknowledged these concerns and indicated a commitment to improved communication regarding the evolving financial landscape in higher education.
- A question was raised regarding eligibility of co-op and research faculty for the Full-Time Non-Tenure Track Faculty Fellowship.
  - Clarification was provided regarding eligibility criteria and funding constraints, and follow-up discussions with the relevant committee were offered.

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. DAVID LAZER**

##### **UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND COMPUTER SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES; KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION, RESULTS FROM A LARGE-SCALE SURVEY .**

Professor David Lazer presented findings from a large-scale, multi-university survey examining public opinion on higher education.

Key points included:

- Broad public support for higher education and opposition to funding cuts.
- Variation in support by political affiliation, education level, and geography.
- High levels of public trust in colleges and universities relative to other institutions.
- Areas of concern including cost, campus climate, and issues related to bias and inclusion.

The presentation was followed by questions regarding methodology, demographic trends, and longitudinal comparisons.

##### **B. MICHAEL DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL SAFETY & POLICING.**

##### **RUBEN GALINDO, ASSOC. VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPUS POLICING.**

##### **NUPD OVERVIEW**

Ruben Galindo, representing the Northeastern University Police Department, presented an overview of:

- The Global Security Network and emergency management structure.
- NUPD operations, accreditation, and community engagement efforts.
- Safety resources available to faculty, staff, and students, including the SafeZone app.
- Training opportunities related to emergency preparedness and situational awareness.

Questions addressed included campus-specific versus global security services and expanded well-being resources available through the SafeZone app.

The Senate expressed appreciation for the presentation and for the service provided by NUPD.

##### **C. PETER DESNOYERS**

##### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF KHOURY COLLEGE**

##### **CORE PRINCIPLES COMMITTEE**

Peter Desnoyers, on behalf of the Core Principles Committee, reported on the committee's work regarding a proposed statement addressing faculty core principles.

- The committee met five times and consulted with university leadership and legal counsel.

- The committee voted 5–1 to present the document as a statement rather than a resolution.
- The proposed statement was read to the Senate.

#### Dissent

- A dissenting perspective was presented, expressing concerns regarding:
- The political nature of the document.
- Procedural inclusivity.
- Potential risks associated with the language used.

#### Discussion and Action

- Following discussion, a motion was made to close debate. The motion carried.
- The Faculty Senate then voted on the Core Principles statement, and the statement passed. (25-7-7)

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Bala Maheswaran (College of Engineering) presented an overview of the Policy Oversight Committee (POC) and its role within the university's governance structure.

- The POC consists of approximately 20 members representing a wide range of university functions, including research, finance, human resources, legal affairs, student life, privacy, Faculty Senate, the Provost's Office, the Board of Trustees, and complaints management.
- The committee is supported by a three-member administrative team responsible for day-to-day operations.
- The POC meets monthly on the first Tuesday, with meetings lasting approximately one hour.
- Meeting materials are distributed one week in advance, including agendas, policy proposal forms, redlined drafts, and clean versions of proposed policies.
- Policies are presented by a designated facilitator, followed by committee discussion, questions, and feedback.
- Recent policy discussions have included topics such as anti-corruption, record retention, confidential information, and data access procedures.
- The university maintains over 125 policies, organized into major categories including governance and legal, academic and faculty, business and financial, human resources, research, safety and security, records and information technology, and student and athletics.
- All community members are required to comply with university policies as a condition of employment or enrollment.
- Canadian campuses operate under applicable Canadian law and follow both university-wide and campus-specific policies.
- Policies are publicly available at [policies.northeastern.edu](http://policies.northeastern.edu), and inquiries may be directed to [policies@northeastern.edu](mailto:policies@northeastern.edu).

Questions addressed included how policy approval procedures have evolved over time. It was noted that additional information could be provided at a future meeting

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman

