



Northeastern University Faculty Senate

11_19_25 MINUTES - REVISED AS OF 1_28_26:

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

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

Absent: (Professors): Bai, Hill, Eckelman, Lorette, Rawson, Tjiptowidjojo, Young-Hong.

Absent: (Administrators):

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. The minutes for the 11_5_25 Senate meetings 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.

- The Financial Affairs Com. will be presenting at the 12_3 Elected Senators Meeting.
- Since 11_5 senate meeting, SAC has met two times and hosted one executive session. SAC did not meet with the Provost during this period.

III. **PROVOST REPORT**

- Provost Winkelstein met with the New England Commission of Higher Education or NECHE site visitor, Dr. Ronald Harichandran, who was part of the visit to the Toronto campus. Toronto has demonstrated significant growth since its launch in 2016 with 135 faculty on that campus, 54 full time staff, and 8 masters programs with six more launching in the next 18 months. The campus maintains strong academic quality indicators, including 90 to 100% graduation rates across programs and 94% retention in six of our eight programs.
- On Nov. 18th Northeastern Oakland hosted an AI summit for university leaders, policymakers, employers and researchers in the AI ecosystem. Several of Northeastern faculty were featured.
- The Provost reminded faculty that the university does not require faculty members to adopt AI in their courses.
- In light of many WIFI and IT issues mentioned at previous senate meetings, the Provost shared that that IT Services has a website dedicated to known outages and technology issues:
<https://northeastern.statuspage.io/>.
- Provost wished everyone a restful Thanksgiving holiday.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Bhutta said the IT status website is not often updated in timely manner.

Prof. Sobral-Campos, CSSH, asked the Provost about recent staff layoffs in the English department and noted especially poor timing since when registration has started and it is particularly busy.

The Provost said she knew Dean Tsai is aware of the high need to make sure student needs are being served.

IV. CURRICULUM ITEM:**A. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.**

Prof. Jacques Alexis, CPS read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the [Bachelor of Science in Health Services, BS](#) in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee 22 October, 2025 (20-0-0).

Prof. Carr, CAMD, seconded the motion.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Earlene Avalon, CPS: CPS had two separate programs -- a bachelor's degree of Health Sciences and a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration. Students in the Health Science program came to the program with the intention of being a nurse or a physician. Some had great difficulty completing the science courses. Rather than them walking away from the program, we're allowing them to continue in a different program to get their bachelor's degree. We added many electives, so students have the ability to take any of the biology, the chemistry, or physics courses, if they want to do more of a clinical graduate program.

The vote PASSED: 40-2-0.

B. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES.

Prof. Stefanik, BCHS, read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the [Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Clinical and Rehabilitation Sciences](#), PhD in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 30 October, 2025 (18-0-0)

Prof. Musselman, CSSH, seconded the motion.

Prof. Stefanik acknowledged Doctor Darla Castelli, Department Chair in Physical Therapy, Movement and Rehab Sciences. Dr. Castelli explained that the Doctor of Human Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences has existed in our department for a five-year period. It is a robust program serving 24 doctoral students. We want to take this program from the departmental level to the school level so that we

can leverage the expertise of faculty and students across the school. This will also involve faculty from the Communication and Science Disorders Department and the Department of Medical Sciences. It is an opportunity to expand enrollment and be more interdisciplinary about the curriculum and this discipline.

Dr. Castelli said students will be sunset out under the old program name or they will have the opportunity to join the new program and graduate under the new program name.

The vote PASSED: 40 –1--0.

C. DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE FOR DEPARTMENT IN BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES.

Prof. Andrew Orr-Skirvin, BCHS, read the following:

~~BE IT RESOLVED That the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences be renamed as the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences.~~

REVISION:

"BE IT RESOLVED That the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences be renamed as the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences."

**(The above correction was approved with a motion at the 1_28_26 Senate meeting.
The motion passed 35 – 0 – 0.)**

Prof. Musselman, CSSH, seconded the motion.

Prof. Orr-Skirvin acknowledged Dept. Chair, Tali Konry, who stated that the inclusion of biomedical in the department title acknowledges that half of their faculty are Biomedical scientists, and more accurately reflects the department's collaboration with the clinical and medical aspects in the field.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were many questions from faculty members of the COS and COE with concerns that this new title might create confusion for students who are interested in programs in those colleges.

Faculty were reminded that this was a department name change, not a program name change.

Prof. Lahr, MCNU, moved to end debate.

Prof. Bhutta, Khoury, seconded the motion.

The motion PASSED: 37 – 3 – 1.

Vote on the main motion PASSED: 34 – 4 – 2.

I. PRESENTATION:**JAVED ASLAM, PROFESSOR AND CHIEF OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.****JAMES GENONE, SR. VICE CHANCELLOR – LEARNING STRATEGY.**

(The presentation is posted to the senate website.)

Educational AI Strategy at Northeastern

We face multiple critical challenges, including employer expectations around AI skills and AI readiness, academic integrity, and the integrity of assessments.

The presentation reviewed the educational AI strategy for Northeastern University and the associated challenges and opportunities the university faces in this space. Faculty were shown how a student could use AI to summarize the entire content from a Canvas course site and create all course deliverables with virtually no student interaction with the course material.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Prof. Musselman (CSSH) who often teaches advanced writing courses noted that her students are very concerned about the environmental impact and sustainability of AI. Some state that AI use is unethical at any level because of the environmental catastrophe that it is accelerating.

Sr. Vice Chancellor Genone said they are collaborating with Davis Bookhart, Sr. Advisor for Sustainability as part of the Sustainability Week that is taking place in March to have a panel with a number of faculty experts to speak to this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman