



## Northeastern University Faculty Senate

Present: Professors Alexis, Auguste, Averett, Bhutta, Bloom, Carr, Chiou, Daynard, Desnoyers, DiBattista, Di Credico, Eckelman, 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): Bai, Hand, Parameswaran, Passas.

Absent: (Administrators):

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. The minutes for the January 28, 2026 Senate meeting were approved.

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

Senate Chair Dee Spencer reported that since the previous Senate meeting:

- SAC met twice as a body;
- SAC met twice with the Provost; and
- SAC met once with the Senior Leadership Team.

Questions were raised regarding annual administrative reviews. Chair Spencer indicated discussions are ongoing with the Provost and updates will be provided.

A question regarding distribution of student lab fees to colleges was raised. The Provost clarified that the matter is under review as part of broader fee and budget planning and encouraged faculty to raise concerns through college leadership.

III. **PROVOST REPORT**

- Provost Winkelstein continues to collaborate with Senate committees;
- Themes emerging from recent discussions with senior leadership, particularly around communication and information-sharing;
- The Provost is working with the Senate Agenda Com. in regards to the COE & DMSB dean searches;
- Development of the university academic plan and opportunities for faculty input.
- Announcements included three open forums related to the academic plan:
  - February 24 (Global University System)
  - March 10 (Teaching and Learning)
  - March 17 (Research and PhD Education)

**Final Exams and Academic Calendar**

- The Provost explained the rationale behind spring final exam scheduling changes, including removal of Reading Day due to space constraints, enrollment growth, and regulatory compliance.
- Mitigation steps by the Registrar were outlined, including prioritizing graduating seniors' exams and efforts to reduce weekend exams.
- Accommodations for religious observances and graduation conflicts were reiterated.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Questions were raised regarding dean search timelines, admissions responsiveness, and campus safety and building access.

The Provost acknowledged concerns and committed to sharing feedback with appropriate offices.

**IV. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**REPORT OF THE FULL TIME NON-TENURE TRACK FACULTY COMMITTEE.**

(The report is posted to the senate website.)

Prof. Erica Frank continued presenting findings from the Faculty Climate Survey conducted by the committee.

- Key findings included:
  - Job security and satisfaction vary significantly by faculty type and college;
  - Widespread dissatisfaction with departmental, college, and university budget transparency;
  - Concerns regarding workload expectations, salary competitiveness, and system implementation challenges;
  - Non-tenure track faculty reported lower awareness of sabbatical eligibility and less equal standing;
  - Strong promotion guidelines exist, though service expectations vary.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Senators discussed strategies for improving budget transparency, including engagement with deans and senior administration.

Questions were raised about survey representation across campuses and colleges.

Committee members indicated additional work remains to develop formal recommendations and resolutions.

Chair Spencer thanked the committee for its work and presentation.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. REPORT OF THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

**(Faculty Development report and presentation have been posted to senate website.)**

Rush Sanghrajka presented the committee's report addressing three charges:

Faculty Resources and AI Integration

- Current faculty resource systems were found to be difficult to navigate and not personalized.

- Recommendations included exploring AI-enabled search tools and improved content updating mechanisms in collaboration with ITS.

#### Faculty Communication Within Colleges

- Survey data showed improvement from 2024 to 2025, though concerns remain regarding collaborative decision-making.
- Only one college responded to committee outreach regarding communication practices.
- Recommendations included leveraging senators as communication liaisons and modeling best practices from higher-performing colleges.

#### Teaching Faculty Tenure Pathways

- The committee reviewed models at peer institutions, including WPI, and identified strengths and limitations.
- The committee recommended continued investigation of alternative models and reaffirmed the importance of long-term employment stability and academic freedom for teaching faculty.

#### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

- Methodological questions were raised regarding interpretation of survey averages.
- Senators discussed internal best practices and opportunities for broader institutional leadership in teaching faculty pathways.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:25 p.m. ET.

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman