



# Northeastern University Faculty Senate

**TO:** Faculty Senate.

**SUBJECT:** 4\_08\_2026 Senate Minutes.

Present: Professors Alexis, Auguste, Bai, Bhutta, Bloom, Bormann, Carr, Chiou, Desnoyers, DiBattista, Di Credico, Godoy-Carter, Hamandi, Hill, Hinerman, Hodeghatta, Homan, Ingemi, Kahn, Kevoe-Feldman, Lamin, Lorette, Lykourinou, Magowan, Maheswaran, McGivney, Musselman, Muzny, Orr-Skirvin, Passas, Rejtar, Shrivastava, Sivak, Sobral-Campos, Spahr, Spencer, Stefanik, Un, Walker J., Walker L.

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

Absent: (Professors): Eckelman, Hand, Ivanova, Parameswaran, Tjiptowidjojo, Young-Hong.

Absent: (Administrators):

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

- I. The minutes for the March 25, 2026 Senate meeting were approved.
- II. **SAC REPORT** (The SAC report has been posted to the Senate website.)  
Senate Chair Spencer noted:
  - SAC met twice since the last meeting; SAC hosted one elected senators meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> that the Provost attended to discuss the academic plan; SAC also met separately with the Provost.
  - Announcement of April 15 meeting of newly elected and continuing senators to elect new SAC leadership.
  - Outgoing senators were recognized and thanked.

### **QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION.**

There were no questions.

### **III. PROVOST REPORT.**

Provost Winkelstein noted:

- The Academic Honors Convocation honoring our students and faculty who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship is scheduled for April 16.
- Continued faculty input is requested for academic planning process.
- The Provost is still looking forward to receiving any input on where faculty see Northeastern in 10 to 15 years and how we can establish an even stronger leadership position.
- Two Dean Search committees for COE and DMSB have been charged. The COS Dean search is ongoing.
- The summer teaching policy has been updated with new guidelines that up to 4 months teaching allowed.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Senators expressed concerns about budget cuts and transparency and noted they are hearing a sense of despair from faculty colleagues on this issue.

The Provost said the budget is still a work in progress: they are aligning the budget to the academic plan. She asked faculty to remember that when the university expands and acquires or merges with other campuses, all of their assets become ours as well. She asked all senators to help carry forward a message of stability and strength to their colleagues.

The Provost maintained that teaching and research continue to be the university's north stars.

A senator asked the administration to consider student representation on the Policy Oversight Committees.

The Provost said she would bring this request forward.

#### IV. CURRICULUM ITEMS:

##### 1. **ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST.**

Davis Bookhart, Sr. Advisor for Sustainability, the Office of the Provost, described the proposal as interdisciplinary program with 10 concentrations across 7 colleges. This program has been designed with alignment to the new accreditation standards that have been designed by the Sustainability Education Accreditation Commission.

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

Waleed Meleis, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, said academic oversight for the programs was completely in the hands of the colleges. The programs have an administrative home in the Office of the Provost.

Prof. Walker suggested that moving forward it would be good to have some language about lines of authority in the curriculum documents.

Davis Bookhart said their market study indicates that jobs in the sustainability field are still growing.

Davis Bookhart said they are aiming for 40 to 50 students to get started. They have designed the program so that it is flexible for a plus one. They also think that this structure can be expanded to the other campuses in the global network.

Prof. Spencer moved the proposal and read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Applied Sustainability, MS in the Office of the Provost as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 18 February, 2026 (17-0-0).

Prof. Majeswaran seconded.

The vote PASSED: 40-2-0.

**2. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST.**

Assoc. Prof. Miso Kim, CAMD, gave a description of the new program noting it is an interdisciplinary degree blending computing, design, engineering, and movement science. She added that market demand is strong.

The program has an overall course load of 32 semester hours and will launch on the Boston and Oakland campuses. Initial enrollment is projected at 15 to 20 students, growing to a steady state of 100 to 125 new students annually by year 4.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

There were no questions.

Prof. Spencer moved the proposal as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction, MS in the Office of the Provost as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 11 March, 2026 (19-0-0).

Prof. Lykourinou seconded.

The vote PASSED: 36-2-1

**3. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.**

Prof. Jacques Alexis, CPS, acknowledged Teaching Prof. Christopher Bolick, CPS, who said the program is a 34 semester hour program slated for launch in fall 2026 and delivered both virtually and on the Boston campus. This degree is designed to meet growing workforce demand at the intersection of artificial intelligence, data analytics, and organizational leadership by pairing a six-course STEM core with one of six existing concentrations.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

Prof. Walker asked what steps are being taken to sort of shore up academic integrity in the context of the virtual versions.

Prof. Bolick: one of the major initiatives that the college is undergoing right now is the convergence of all their graduate programs and doctoral degrees into a semester calendar. They've been designing those programs for both online and on-ground delivery and considering strategies for assessing students.

Prof. Spencer moved the proposal as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED That the University establish the Master of Professional Studies, Organizational Intelligence, MPS in the College of Professional Studies as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee 18 February, 2026 (15-0-0).

Prof. Alexis seconded.

The vote PASSED: 35-2-3.

## V. PRESENTATION

### REPORT OF THE GLOBAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(The report and presentation have been posted to the Senate website.)

The Global Education Committee presented an update on global learning initiatives and programming. The presentation highlighted ongoing efforts to expand global opportunities for students and strengthen integration across the university's global network. Emphasis was placed on accessibility, participation, and alignment with institutional priorities.

#### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Discussion focused on program access, coordination across campuses, and opportunities for faculty involvement.

### REPORT OF THE FULL TIME NON TENURE TRACK COMMITTEE

The Full-Time Non-Tenure Track Committee (FTNTTC) presented updates on issues affecting non-tenure-track faculty. Topics included workload, promotion pathways, and recognition of contributions to teaching and service. The committee emphasized the importance of equity, transparency, and consistent policies across colleges.

#### QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Discussion addressed faculty support, policy consistency, and ongoing areas for improvement.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman