



Northeastern University Faculty Senate

TO: Faculty Senate.

SUBJECT: 2_25_2026 Senate Minutes.

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

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

Absent: (Professors): Parameswaran.

Absent: (Administrators): Isaacs

Call To Order: 11:45 a.m.

I. The minutes for the February 11, 2026 Senate meeting were approved.

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

- Chair Spencer thanked all senators and participants for attending the meeting despite difficulties resulting from the storm and offered a special thanks to all essential workers in public safety, facilities and dining for their efforts.
- The SAC report reviewed the 2_25_26 Senate agenda and speaking and voting protocols.
- SAC has met twice as a committee.
- SAC hosted one elected senators meeting on Wed., Feb. 18; and
- SAC met once with the Provost.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION.

There were no questions.

III. **PROVOST REPORT**

- Provost Winkelstein thanked faculty and staff for continuing academic operations during weather-related disruptions and also thanked essential workers;
- Provided an update on the university academic plan website (Strategicplan.Northeastern.edu) and working groups;
- Encouraged faculty participation through online feedback forms on the website;
- Reported that the first focus group (Global University System) had 145 attendees;
- Announced upcoming focus groups:
 - o March 10 (Teaching and Learning)
 - o March 17 (Research and PhD Education);

- Announced that Commencement will be held at Fenway on Wednesday, April 29 and requested faculty volunteers for marshals and the academic procession.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were no questions.

IV. CURRICULUM ITEMS:

1. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE BOUVÉ COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES.

Chair Spencer, DMSB, read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (BS) in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences, as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on February 11, 2026.

Prof. Carr, CAMD, seconded the motion.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION.

There were no questions.

The vote PASSED: 41-0-0.

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

Chair Spencer, DMSB, read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Master of Science in Precision Health (MS) in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences, as approved by the University Graduate Curriculum Committee in February 2026.

Prof. Lorette, BCHS, seconded the motion.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were no questions.

The vote PASSED: 42-0-0.

3. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING.

Chair Spencer, DMSB, read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Design (BS) in the College of Engineering, as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on February 13, 2026.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were no questions.

Prof. Maheswaran seconded the motion.

The vote PASSED: 40-0-0.

4. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE D'AMORE-MCKIM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

Prof. Bai, DMSB, read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Finance (BS) in the D'Amore-McKim School of Business, as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on February 11, 2026.

Prof. Chiou seconded the motion.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

There were no questions.

The vote PASSED: 40-0-1.

5. ACADEMIC PROPOSAL: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.

Prof. Jacques Alexis read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED that the University establish the Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence (BS) in the College of Professional Studies, as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on January 14, 2026, with a vote of 18 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Discussion included clarification of the program's target population. It's designed for working adults and Community College transfer students, building on their prior academic and professional experience to provide an accessible pathway into AI careers. Further discussion revolved around the CPS program's relationship to existing programs in Khoury College of Computer Sciences and other colleges, integration of ethics and humanities coursework, and anticipated enrollment growth.

Prof. Maheswaran seconded the motion.

The vote PASSED: 37-3-8

6. UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PROGRAM IN THE KHOURY COLLEGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCES

BE IT RESOLVED that the University rename the Bachelor of Science in Data Science to the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (BS) in the Khoury College of Computer Sciences, as approved by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee on February 11, 2026.

A clarification was made that this is an existing program name change, not a new degree.

Prof. Muzny seconded the motion.

The vote PASSED: 38-0-5.

V. PRESENTATION

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

(The committee's report and presentation have been posted to senate website.)

Professors Louise Walker and Michelle Rego presented the committee's report addressing three charges from the Senate Agenda Committee:

1. Best practices for fostering viewpoint diversity, pluralistic learning environments, and belonging;
2. Whether Northeastern should adopt the Chicago Principles on academic freedom and free expression;
3. Whether Northeastern should define civility and respectful debate.

The committee summarized national and institutional survey findings regarding public confidence in higher education and faculty self-censorship.

Key findings from the Northeastern faculty survey included:

- 40% of respondents reported self-censoring in the classroom;
- 61% reported low confidence that the administration would protect them in cases involving controversial speech.

The committee proposed a series of recommendations and resolutions organized around three themes:

- Supporting classroom-level best practices;
- Strengthening academic freedom and free expression;
- Promoting civility and respectful debate.

A minority report was requested and, there being no objection, was heard in accordance with Robert's Rules.

DISSENT FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM – PROFESSOR ANNA LAMIN.

This report is also posted to the Senate website.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION:

Senators raised questions regarding the implications of institutional neutrality, the scope and application of the Chicago Principles, and how proposed definitions of civility might interact with existing university

policies. Some members emphasized the importance of safeguarding academic freedom while also ensuring an inclusive and respectful learning environment. Additional comments addressed faculty governance processes and the need for careful review prior to adoption of formal resolutions.

The discussion and presentation of the committee's resolutions will continue at the 3_11_26 Senate meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted by Professor Heidi Kevoe-Feldman