

Northeastern University

Faculty Senate

SENATE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

The Faculty Senate acts as a coordinating body to provide communication between the Administration and general University faculty, and to initiate consideration on any matter of faculty concern.

For more information, please visit the [senate website](#)

Faculty concern?

1. Reach out to your senators
2. Complete our new [faculty concern form](#)



2/1/2023 Faculty Senate Meeting Highlights

Senate Agenda Committee Report (Professor Gonyeau)

- SAC met twice as a group and met once with the Provost's Office
- Search Committees continue their work
- Administrator surveys:
 - AEOC committee has finalized their work and sent their letters to the administrators
 - Faculty Senate will launch sites for faculty review from respective colleges and departments next week
- Program Inactivation:
 - BCHS - CAGS-COPS : Counseling Psychology, CAGS
 - BCHS - CAGS-ABA : Applied Behavior Analysis, CAGS
- Senate Communication Plan: new plan to improve processes
- See SAC report for more information on agendas section on website

Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings

Please join us for our virtual Teams meetings!

Spring 2023 semester meetings

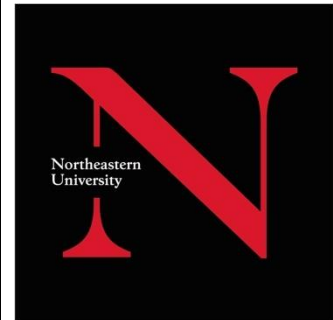
(11:45am -1:25 pm):

- February 15
- March 1
- March 29
- April 12

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Identification of issue – Faculty to Senator	Identification of issue – Senator to SAC	SAC Discussion of Issue	Communication of Action(s) taken	Follow-up/Continuous Quality Improvement
Senator collects info	Senator completes faculty concern form	Outreach to relevant university offices	Senate Dashboard SAC reports Provost reports	SAC – Provost – Chancellor meetings

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Provost's Report (Provost Madigan)

- Highlighted upcoming Dean Searches
- Provided an update on hiring figures: about 70 open Tenure/Tenured-Track positions, with similar figures for full-time non-tenure track and research positions.
- Discussed how tragedies that occur on/within our university community are communicated, particularly if they involve students.

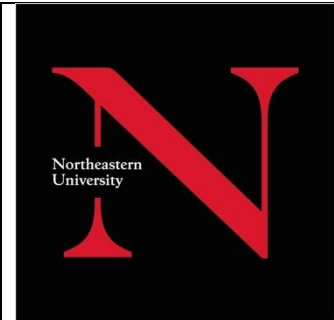
PRESENTATION: COLE CAMPLESE, VP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY and CIO (Highlights from presentation)

- IT Services has 240 Full-time staff and about 300 student employees on the Boston campus alone and oversees Academic Technologies, Information Security, Enterprise Platforms & Business Intelligence, Global IT Operations, Infrastructure and Engagement & Customer Experience.
- Fiscal Year Highlights include:
 - FY23 – Financial System Discovery, Network Moderation, Banner Platform Refresh, Global Digital Platform, Slate, Giving System Moderation and Global Classroom Expansion.
 - FY24 – Kickoff of Financial System Moderation, Network Moderation, ServiceNow as a Platform, Global Digital Platform, Device as a Service, Salesforce Moderation and Global Classroom Experience
 - FY25 – New Financial System, Network Moderation, Global Digital Platform, 1:1 Device for Faculty and Global Classroom Expansion
 - FY26 – Complete Financial System, Network Moderation, Student Information System Discovery, Global Digital Platform and On-Prem Data Center Closure
 - FY27- Kickoff Student Information System Moderation and Global Digital Platform
- Information security is a high priority – particularly around ransomware, data breach and social-political events. Currently the system has 236,339 users, 11,710 managed devices, 6M+attacks/day and 5500+ phishing attacks/month
- Enterprise System Impact: Banner Finance & Student (135K registrations/term, \$985M billed/term), Office 365 (252K mailboxes, 24K Teams, 80.4K meetings/month), Cbord Gold (25K ID Cards, 9K Door Lock Access, 25K Meal Plans), and Salesforce (1200 Named Users, 380K Person Records)

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- Personalization through the Global Digital Platform (GDP) and Hub Eco-System is an additional priority of IT Services. The GDP, which is an architectural framework, is a “platform of platforms” that empowers the work of our varied and future audiences.
- Student Hub Key Metrics: 11,500 average unique students/day, 4 average visits per student/day and 660+ students providing input/feedback. Top features used by students include Canvas integration, class schedules and resources.
- Personalized Classroom Dashboard - the new personalized faculty dashboard in ServiceNow provides an instant view into the health of your classroom. It provides details about the issues and associated time to remediation. Next version will automatically notify faculty via email (and IM) if their specific classroom is experiencing any technical issues as soon as it is discovered. To learn more visit <https://service.northeastern.edu/tech> >Classrooms
- GLOBAL CLASSROOMS - there are 279 Registrar controlled classrooms in Boston, 180 are modernized to the 2020 standards. 56 in the Global Network and an additional 36 in Oakland. Global learning spaces (GLS) are found throughout the network: 22 in Boston, 20 in Oakland, 4 in Vancouver, 2 in Seattle, 1 in Burlington, 4 in Arlington, 4 in Miami
- IT Services is working on Canvas and Teams Integration



PRESENTATION: USAMA FAYYAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE INSTITUTE OF EXPERIENTIAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

(Highlights from presentation)

What is ChatGPT?

- Chat interface running atop GPT-3 (GPT3.5 recently)
- Generative Pre-trained Transformer model – utilizes transformer trained on a corpus of about 1 TB of internet text data (with adjustments to reduce biases)
- A neural net with 175 billion parameters – ridiculously expensive to train
- Uses generative unsupervised training – appears to generalize well and claims to “do meta-learning”
- Works by predicting next token in a sequence – sequences can be very long
- Most capabilities of ChatGPT not new – around since 2020 in GPT-3
- Auto-complete on steroids – with prediction and “concept graph” & human feedback/editing

Is there a human in the loop?

- Strong evidence that human editorial review is applied and that some questions are answered by humans
- Does raise issues about “intelligence” and “reasoning”
- This is a best practice – we call it Experiential AI – many do it: Google MLR, Amazon recommendations and many intervention-based relevance feedback

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GPT-3 is not free:

- 2019 Microsoft invests \$1B – to make sure OpenAI uses Azure Cloud
- 2023 Microsoft invests several billion to gain rights to embed in Bing and in MS Office apps
- There is a cost to using GPT-3
 - GPT-3 can be “specialized” to certain domains (targeted skills)
 - They charge by the character for additional corpus of specialized training
 - OpenAI maintains the “specialized model” and charges for compute when using it
- An Example from *Institute for EAI* at Northeastern
 - Corpus of data on disease – with 65,000 docs – approximately 10k characters per document. 4 epochs of training
 - Cost is about \$50K

What is The Threat to Higher Ed?

- GPT is unreliable at
 - Building on multiple answers (memory of conversational history)
 - Applying innovative “thinking” about a problem
 - Attributing references to its “sources” (it is a mish-mash of docs)
 - Critical thinking of what it supplies as “answers”
- GPT is good at “regurgitating” well-established knowledge
 - Replicating answers to well-established types of questions – especially standard assessments
- Unfortunately – we are about teaching “what is known” (classically)
 - Makes it easier for students to pass assessments
 - Writing “typical papers” is something GPT will do with relative ease – but with pitfalls

How Shall We Think About this:

As with the invention of the slide rule, calculator, computer, and sites such as Google or the Cloud on mobile devices:

- Higher Ed has been through major transitions before
 - We adapted effectively and delivered learnings atop the existing technology
- GPT is yet another tool available to our learners
 - How do we utilize it effectively?
 - How do we teach about the limitations and the good uses?

We cannot ignore GPTs existence or its capabilities:

- Challenge learners to use it
- How do you build value on top?
- Our assessments need to evolve
- Emphasis on creative thinking and synthesis – rote learning is reduced to absurdity and obsolescence
- Prepare a new set of skills for an evolved work role

Can we detect its use?

- Several systems and tools evolving: e.g. GPTZero
 - Developed by an undergrad at Princeton and uses GPT to detect GPT

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- Edward Tian updated a GPTZero to GPTZeroX (<http://gptzero.me/>) to respond to ChatGPT learnings
- OpenAI AI Text Classifier <https://platform.openai.com/ai-text-classifier>
- Guidelines from OpenAI to Educators: “Educator considerations for ChatGPT” <https://platform.openai.com/docs/chatgpt-education/educator-considerations-for-chatgpt>
- We could simply assume it is being used and ask students to acknowledge and how they “prompted ChatGPT”. NPR segment featuring professor at Wharton School (via Prof. Ken Church): <https://www.npr.org/2023/01/26/1151499213/chatgpt-ai-education-cheating-classroom-wharton-schoolUses>

The Institute is here to partner with you. It has a focus on Responsible AI and ethics in AI – in collaboration with Ethics Institute

- They have experts at the Institute for EAI who could help with your grant proposals or by rendering certain guidance of opinions on issues and projects
- Address research problems and respond to research grants
- Solve AI Problems together and build real and responsible AI solutions

Upcoming Workshops: Supporting Student Mental Health

This workshop was created specifically to assist faculty in supporting student mental health. It will provide an opportunity to discuss how mental health is impacting students in the classroom and faculty will leave the session with concrete skills to recognize students in distress, respond to students appropriately, and refer students to appropriate Northeastern resources.

This semester, we’re offering two sessions of the Supporting Student Mental Health in-person workshops for Boston-based faculty. Coffee and treats will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. Please see below for event details and registration information:

Thursday, February 23rd, 11:00am-1:00pm EST

McLeod Suites, 318-322 Curry Student Center

To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-student-mental-health-tickets-530980917217>

Thursday, April 6th, 11:00am-1:00pm EST

Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African-American Institute

To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/supporting-student-mental-health-tickets-530992541987>

Workshops will be facilitated by Debra Franko, Ph.D., Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, Christine Civileto, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor, Wellness, University Health and Counseling Services (UHCS), and Kellianne Carfi, LICSW, Director

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<p>of Wellness Initiatives, The Office of Prevention and Education at Northeastern (OPEN).</p> <p>Please refer to and share the Faculty Guide: Supporting Student Mental Health for information on recognizing and responding to mental health concerns.</p>	
<p><u>Helpful Mental Health & Well-Being Resources</u></p> <p>For students/helping students:</p> <p>Northeastern University Health and Counseling Services Find@Northeastern for students We Care for students Faculty Guide: Supporting Student Mental Health OPEN: Alcohol and other Drug and Sexual Violence Services Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service Disability Resource Center</p> <p>For faculty/staff:</p> <p>NU Mental Health resources for faculty/staff Provost office series on Coping with COVID-19 HR Wellness resources NU Ombuds for faculty/staff NU Employee Assistance Program</p>	