



# Faculty Governance at NU

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# University Governance & Faculty Rights Documents

- [Faculty Handbook](#)
- [Student Handbook](#)
  - Especially Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities
- [University Catalog](#)
  - Especially courses & grading section
- [University Policies Website](#)

# Our “Living” Faculty Handbook

- [Faculty Handbook](#)
- Every module updated within the past 3 years

## Handbook Modules

### Governance

Statement of the Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Bylaws

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Dismissal Proceedings: Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty

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Dismissal Proceedings: Full-time Non-Tenure Track Faculty

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Faculty Discipline

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Full-Time Faculty Grievance Procedure

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Non-retaliation for Participation in Faculty Governance

### Appointments, Promotions and Tenure

Rights And Responsibilities

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Performance Expectations

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Compensation

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Appointments, Terms and Reappointments

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Tenure

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Tenure and Promotion of Jointly Appointed Faculty

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Promotion

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Sabbatical

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Leaves of Absence and Vacation

### Rights In Teaching, Research and Scholarship

Academic Freedom

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Patent and Copyright

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Instructional Media

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Conflict of Commitment and Interest

### Personnel Policies

Faculty Workloads

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Presence at the University

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Faculty Outside Professional Activities

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Retirement

### Academic Organization

The General University Faculty Advisory Board and Bylaws

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The College Faculties

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Procedural Guidelines in the Appointment and Evaluation of University Administrators

# The Faculty Senate

<https://faculty.northeastern.edu/senate/>

# 33 Senators (Full-Time Faculty Members) Elected by Their Colleges to 2-Year Senate Terms

1. Bouvé College of Health Sciences
2. College of Arts, Media & Design
3. College of Engineering
4. College of Professional Studies
5. College of Science
6. College of Social Sciences and Humanities
7. D'Amore-McKim School of Business
8. Khoury College of Computer Sciences
9. School of Law

## 40 Members for the Senate: Shared Governance Model

- 6 Administrators appointed by the Provost
  - Administrator = Any faculty member in a dean's, provost's or chancellor's office
    - Chairs/Directors included in full-time faculty group.
- Provost (who co-chairs sessions and votes only in ties)
- Faculty determine the meeting agendas via the Senate Agenda Committee
- Open meetings, ~2 per month

## Senate Definition by the Board of Trustees

- The Faculty Senate, together with the Administration of the University, has the responsibility of **maintaining and improving the academic standards** of the University and **making the functioning of the University more effective and harmonious**.
- It is the highest faculty governance body in the University.
- It also coordinates activities among the various College faculties as well as those that involve both the administration and faculty of the University.



# Responsibilities Assigned to Senate by the BOT

- **To act as a coordinating body:**
  - establish mutually satisfactory academic goals and standards
- **To be consulted:**
  - on policies, proposals, and faculty concerns, including creation of new colleges, new campuses, and new departments
- **To be the final faculty body:**
  - to deliberate and act upon recommendations from university curriculum committees
- **To initiate consideration and recommendation:**
  - on any matter of faculty concern
- **To undertake legislative and advisory functions:**
  - in connection with the work of the University, its President, and/or the Board of Trustees
- **To provide communication:**
  - between the University faculty and the Administration



# Senate Standing Committees

- Senate Agenda Committee
- Academic Policy Committee
- Administrator Evaluation Oversight Committee
- Climate Justice Action Planning
- Enrollment & Admissions Policy Committee
- Faculty Development Committee
- Financial Affairs Committee
- Full-time Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Committee
- Graduate Council
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee
- Information Technology Policy Committee
- Library & Information Collaboration Committee
- Research Policy Oversight Committee
- University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Ad Hoc committees '22-23:

Faculty Handbook Revision  
Global Education

# Senate Agenda Committee (SAC)

- Senate elects 6 SAC members
  - Includes Chair & Secretary positions
  - SAC Chair presides at Senate
- SAC responsibilities
  - Set the agenda for all Senate meetings
  - Staff standing committees; create *ad hoc* committees
  - Provide regular channel for consultation and communication between the faculty and administration
  - Represent the faculty on University-level committees
  - Meet at least once each year with the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees

# Recent Senate Activities

1. Worked closely with the Provost's office and University administration regarding changes to teaching and learning, research and service as a result of COVID-19
2. Approved 10 new programs: 8 MS, 2 doctoral, 1 BS
3. Revised 5 programs: 2 PhD, 3 MS
4. Endorsed a student mental health guide for faculty and staff
5. Created standing Ombuds presentations at senate meetings once per semester

## More of last year's Senate work

6. Reviewed student advising needs in combined majors
7. Established search committees for 3 deans, 1 director, and 6 chairs
8. Oversaw faculty evaluations for 12 administrators: 2 deans, 9 chairs, 1 director
9. Oversaw 2 student academic appeals
10. Implemented criteria for developing and displaying faculty workloads

# From your viewpoint

- Meet interesting people, learn interesting things & shape NU
- **Be informed:**
  - Agendas for the Senate meetings emailed to all faculty
  - The [Senate web site](#) is a rich source of information
  - Regular Faculty Senate Newsletters to all faculty after each meeting
- **Let your voice be heard:**
  - Your College senators represent you!
    - Discuss Senate/University topics and make your opinion known
  - Contact SAC: considers each idea it receives and will also respect the request for confidentiality
- **Get involved:**
  - Senate committees work on array of university-wide topics
    - Survey sent out each spring for committee volunteers
  - Attend Faculty Senate meetings



# Questions?

