The Faculty Senate is a primary vehicle for shared governance at the University. As such, it makes recommendations and passes resolutions concerning matters of general university interest, including policies governing educational and research endeavors, hiring, diversity and inclusion, and campus life. It shares responsibility with the Office of the Provost for drafting, revising, and approving the Faculty Handbook, which describes faculty rights and responsibilities and serves as the contract between faculty and the University. It also hears, through its Committee on Cause, faculty appeals of disciplinary actions.

The Senate is the only representative and elected body of the faculty, comprised of approximately 100 faculty senators, both tenure-track and NTE, representing each school and college, tenure-home unit, the libraries, and the emeriti. The work of the Senate is assisted by an Administrative Coordinator and a Research Assistant.

Additionally, the Senate has thirteen committees: twelve Standing Committees and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee comprises the Faculty Senate Leadership (President, President-Elect, Past President) and the twelve Standing Committee chairs. A brief description of each is located at the end of this document.

The Standing Committees review, deliberate, and draft proposals on matters of interest for consideration by the full Senate. Proposals may come from senators within the committee or be submitted by other faculty within or outside the Senate. The work of the committees is grounded in research on institutional problems and best practices, and is developed in consultation with relevant University stakeholders, including administration, staff, and students.

The Senate has engaged with issues including diversity on the faculty, graduate student funding, faculty salaries and benefits, NTE work-life, course evaluations, and faculty disciplinary procedures. It has conducted faculty surveys, such as the 2019 survey of NTE faculty, and it approved new and robust academic freedom language in the Faculty Handbook (pg. 5 for reference). The Senate has also maintained a strong working relationship with each of the Deans and has formalized a process for providing Faculty Senate input on the University's strategic and financial planning, its policy and procedures, NTE faculty, and research affairs. Foremost, the Senate remains flexible so we can address other issues that arise during the year.

All of these measures are undertaken in the spirit of shared governance and on behalf of making Northwestern a better university. Questions and concerns can be sent to the Senate at faculty-senate@northwestern.edu.
Description of Faculty Senate Committees

**Budget and Planning:** collaborates with administrative offices to ensure that budget and planning for the University are aligned with academic values and faculty interests.

**Cause:** conducts an initial evaluation of appeals by faculty members in cases where the administration has imposed a sanction or is pursuing suspension or termination for Cause.

**Educational Affairs:** recommends best practices in academic organization, research, and teaching in order to shape the Northwestern educational experience.

**Faculty Handbook:** revises the Northwestern University Faculty Handbook, which constitutes the contract between the faculty and the University.

**Faculty Rights and Responsibilities:** attends to policies regarding academic freedom, teaching, research, interpersonal conduct, terms of appointment, promotion and tenure, and related matters, particularly with regard to the Faculty Handbook.

**Governance:** establishes and proposes changes to Bylaws of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly as necessary.

**Non-Tenure Eligible:** identifies issues and advises on best practices related to non-tenure eligible faculty.

**Research Affairs:** addresses issues that impact research-related activities conducted by the faculty.

**Salary and Benefits:** examines matters related to salary and benefits, including health, education, and child care.

**Secure Faculty Survey:** works with the Office of Administration and Planning on the implementation of the Secure Faculty Survey.

**Social Responsibility:** reviews University policies and practices with regard to fairness, decency, and other community values and responsibilities.

**Student Affairs:** collaborates with Northwestern student governance associations on issues involving faculty-student interaction.