

2023-2024 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Social Responsibility Committee
Charge:	Reviews University policies and practices with regard to fairness, decency, and other community values and responsibilities.
Chair:	Rebecca Zorach
# of Meetings:	7 meetings

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

In partnership with Faculty and Staff for Climate Action, we produced a resolution (see below) requesting more information about university sustainability initiatives and progress toward goals; this was proposed to the full senate and approved at the June 5 meeting.

At our request, Tricia England conducted research jointly with Ruth Curry of the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) on the actual and potential role of community engagement and community engaged research in tenure and promotion—including scholarship on current best practices and a review of peer institutions' policies. We then met with CCE staff to discuss the results and other ways of facilitating faculty community engagement. At the June 3 summit meeting with the President and Provost, Rebecca Zorach presented this research. Response was inconclusive, but some follow-up ideas emerged.

We met on May 6 with COO Luke Figora to discuss issues relating to campus police and safety and request more information about campus police response to the Daily Northwestern parody and the protest encampment.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

Ongoing discussions of campus protest and administration response. Concerns remain about the discussion of the administration's negotiations with student activists at the Faculty Assembly, President Schill's Congressional testimony, staff dismissals and arrests and potential disciplinary proceedings against faculty members.

Discussions of parking and transportation and campus smoking policies.

Follow up on sustainability resolution and research on community engagement in P&T.

Various concerns shared with Student Affairs about accommodations for students directly affected by global and other crises.

New Business for Next Year

Senate resolution concerning increased transparency of Northwestern's progress in sustainability initiatives

WHEREAS Northwestern University expresses a strong commitment to sustainability, decarbonization, reductions in fossil fuel consumption and energy spending, and the current and future health and well-being of all members of our community;

WHEREAS the truth of a commitment is measured by actions and by the transparent reporting of goals and progress towards such goals;

WHEREAS addressing sustainability challenges will not be achieved through individual action but through systemic, institution-level change;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate requests that the University leadership expeditiously:

1. Provide an update on the status of the sustainability goals laid out in the 2017–2021 [NU Sustainability Plan](#), identifying goals that have been met and those not yet achieved, and providing clear indication of the specific metrics used to determine (if any) successes and (if any) future challenges in areas including those listed in the 2017–2021 Plan: Built Environment, Transportation, Resource Conservation, Experiential Learning, and Communications and Engagement;
2. Complete and make public the current Sustainability Plan;
3. Provide evidence regarding how Northwestern University plans to stay not just current but also forward-thinking in its steps to address current and future sustainability in energy production and consumption;
4. Provide evidence regarding how Northwestern University will engage all community members in formulating, discussing, and implementing any such plans;
5. Provide quarterly substantial progress reports at the *sustainNU* [news site](#).