Meeting of the University Faculty Assembly

October 28, 2026

4:30-6:00 p.m.

McCormick Foundation Center Forum (1870 Campus Drive) and Zoom

(Register for Zoom webinar here)

I. Welcome from Faculty Senate President Rebecca Zorach

II. State of the University Address from President Mung Chiang

    i. Questions from Faculty

III. Consideration of Statement on Constitutional Rights and Academic Freedom (*Appendix*)

IV. Other Faculty Business

Proposed Statement of the Faculty of Northwestern University on Constitutional Rights and Academic Freedom

The Department of Education has continued to pressure university presidents and boards of trustees to address a set of stipulations – on admissions, speech and dissent, hiring, student loans, grading, international constituents, and independent research – that threaten universities' autonomy and educators' academic freedoms and First Amendment rights.

This Assembly supports the First Amendment rights of speech and assembly of all Northwestern's constituents and of Northwestern itself as a university. We support the Fourth Amendment's protections of privacy and its limits on searches and seizures and use of force, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments' guarantees of due process and equal protection, and the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel. We support the civil rights of groups and individuals who have experienced historical and ongoing discrimination in access to education, voting rights, and employment rights. Finally, we reject any use of federal funds as leverage to micromanage recipients' speech, or the speech of their colleagues, or entire institutions within higher education.