

Northwestern | FACULTY SENATE

Quarterly Newsletter

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of the 2018-2019 [Faculty Senate](#) newsletter. My purpose in writing is to brief you on how the Senate has been working on behalf of all faculty and for the betterment of the University community. I also wish to assure you that the channel is open should you need to bring your concerns to the only elected and representative body of the University faculty.

1. Legislation

In October the Senate ratified changes to the [Faculty Handbook](#) that had been developed and reviewed through much of the previous academic year. These revisions were developed in partnership with the [Office of the Provost](#), the [Office of General Counsel](#), and the [Office of Equity](#). They substantially improve on the procedures governing disciplinary investigations and appeals. The Senate's Committee on Cause was expanded and made the single faculty body that hears appeals for general disciplinary cases—i.e., ones that do not involve research misconduct, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or harassment. The procedures for handling sexual misconduct, discrimination, and harassment were also clarified and now offer more rigorous protection to both complainants and respondents.

In November the Senate unanimously approved a [resolution](#) recommending to all faculty that they include the following sentence in their course syllabi:

"Students can find useful resources for safety and security, academic support, and mental and physical health and well-being at the NUhelp [website](#) and [app](#)."

This language was developed in conversation with Dean of Students [Todd Adams](#) and CAPS Director [John Dunkle](#). NUhelp gathers together many of the resources students may need in the event of a health crisis or academic distress.

2. Senate meetings

Provost [Jonathan Holloway](#) and Senior Vice President for Business and Finance [Craig Johnson](#) visited the Senate at its first meeting in October. Jonathan and Craig provided an explanation of the source of the recent budget deficit, an account of the measures taken to close the deficit and to prevent a similar situation from arising in the future, and an update on the university's present financial status. New systems have been put in place to provide fine-grained information in a timely way so that spending commitments can be processed with greater lead time. Also, the rate of growth in personnel will be more tightly constrained. Both Jonathan and Craig reported optimism over the positive impact these measures have already begun to have.

At our November meeting, the Senate heard from [Sarah Wake](#), Associate Vice President for Equity, who explained faculty [reporting responsibilities](#) for cases of sexual misconduct and for cases of child abuse and neglect. Sarah also provided an overview of the rule changes to Title IX recently proposed by the U.S. Department of Education. Those rule changes are currently undergoing community review. In consultation with the Faculty Senate and other stakeholders on campus, Sarah and her office will ensure that Northwestern continues to offer robust protections to all parties involved in reported cases of sexual misconduct.

We also heard from Director of Emergency Management [Greg Klaiber](#) and Chief of University Police [Bruce Lewis](#), who spoke to us about campus safety. They showed us the recently released video on what to do in the event of [active violence](#) on campus. Greg and Bruce both emphasized that it is important to

quickly decide whether to run, hide, or fight when there is an active violence situation. All faculty are encouraged to watch the video and to plan ahead of time how best to respond in a crisis. Departments and programs that would like some guidance in this planning are encouraged to contact Emergency Management.

3. Senate events

The Senate and President [Morty Schapiro](#) co-hosted the Fall Faculty Assembly on November 1. The Assembly began with a panel on the faculty's role in student wellbeing. The panel included Provost [Jonathan Holloway](#), Dean of Students [Todd Adams](#), CAPS Director [John Dunkle](#), Senior Associate Dean of Students [Mona Dugo](#), and Associate Dean for Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs [Gayle Woloschak](#). The panelists talked about some of the ways in which mental health issues have changed on college campuses in recent years; for example, anxiety (including social anxiety) has replaced depression as the most commonly reported problem students face. They also noted that there has been an overall rise in mental health issues and demand for services. The panelists then gave an overview of the offices and practices the university has instituted to address these concerns. Many of these resources can be accessed through the NUhelp [website](#) and [app](#). This discussion gave rise to the Senate's motion (see above) calling on faculty to include a reference to NUhelp on course syllabi.

Morty then answered questions asked by the audience and submitted online. Among other topics, he touched on the financial state of the university and the future of the [We Will](#) campaign.

In November the Senate also had its annual luncheon with the [Board of Trustees](#). Senators and Trustees engaged each other in a number of small-group conversations centered on opportunities for academic innovation. Notes from those conversations will be compiled and distributed to both bodies, to aid in strategic deliberations in the coming year.

4. Engagement

The Senate regularly interacts with a wide variety of other stakeholders at Northwestern. Our twelve [standing committees](#) work in close contact with relevant administrators—for example, the Handbook Committee meets with representatives from the Office of General Counsel and the Provost's Office—and with the support of Secretary of the Senate Jared Spitz and Senate Researcher Tricia England. These standing committees also collaborate with student groups like [ASG](#) and [GLAC](#).

The Senate leadership holds monthly meetings with the leadership group in the Provost's Office, including Provost Jonathan Holloway, Vice Provost for Academics [Lindsay Chase-Lansdale](#), and [Kathleen Hagerty](#), who is sharing the Associate Provost for Faculty role with Lindsay until the search for the next Dean of Kellogg has been completed. These meetings are used to discuss both pressing issues and longer-term strategic planning.

As Senate President, it has been my pleasure to meet with the Dean of every school on the Evanston, Chicago, and Qatar campuses this quarter. I also meet with TGS Dean [Teresa Woodruff](#) monthly to explore ways in which the Senate can contribute to The Graduate School's [Vision 2025 Strategic Plan](#). The spring quarter Faculty Assembly will be used in part to facilitate communication between TGS administration and the [Graduate Faculty](#).

Representatives from the Senate are also contributing to other groups at the university that are carrying forward the practice of shared governance:

- Two Senators, Karen Springen and Laurence Marks, are on a working group established by the Provost's Office in order to explore what shape an ombuds office might take. This follows on an earlier recommendation from the Senate to establish an ombuds program for the university community.
- Senator Claudia Swan represents the Senate on the [group](#) organized by Registrar Jaci Casazza and Assistant Provost Bennett Goldberg to reconsider how CTECs are designed and used. This follows on a recommendation made by the Senate last year to initiate a review of CTECs.
- I am serving on the Provost's [Academic Calendar Advisory Group](#), which is following up on recommendations made by the Senate on how the academic calendar can be optimized and whether a "D-Term" between fall and winter quarters might provide a space for innovative pedagogy.
- I am also the faculty representative on the university's [Policy Review Committee](#), which is currently looking at policies having to do with the use of electronic resources, safety in the use of radioactive substances, and civility and mutual respect.
- Senators Karen Springen and Claudia Swan are serving on the [Affordable Instructional Resources](#) working group. AIR is a collaboration bringing together representatives of the faculty

(including the library), administration, and the bookstore in order to identify and promote strategies for making course materials more affordable. This follows on a recommendation from the Senate last year to address concerns about course affordability, especially in light of the increase in students who are first generation or Pell eligible.

- Senator Emmy Murphy and I serve on the university's [Gender Queer, Non-Binary, Transgender Task Force](#), which is looking at challenges facing the community's GQNBT members and formulating recommendations for how the university can address them.
- Senator Fred Turek is serving on the [Copyright Policy Committee](#) organized by the Office for Research.
- Senator Ravi Jagannathan is our representative on the [Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility](#).
- I am representing the Senate on the Provost's [Advisory Council on Women Faculty](#), which aims to strengthen the pipeline of women faculty, provide resources for leadership training, and make recommendations on improving work/life conditions.
- Senator Lilah Shapiro is serving on a Faculty Salary Study Planning Group organized by the Provost's Office.
- President-Elect Lois Hedman and I will represent the Senate on two committees organized by [Risk Management](#).
- Senator Elsa Alvaro is serving on the Clinical/Instructional Faculty Work Group.
- Past President Robert Hariman represents the Senate on the [Committee on Honorary Degrees](#).
- I represented the Senate at the Provost's [New Faculty Welcome](#) in September.
- I am serving as the faculty liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee on the [Board of Trustees](#).

5. Plans for the coming year

The Senate will continue its work in the winter and spring quarters. Highlights will include another visit to the Senate from Provost Jonathan Holloway in January. Jonathan will be briefing us on the state of the university, including the latest financial information and the strategic planning his office is engaging in.

I will be included in the Provost's delegation to NU-Q in February, where I look forward to speaking with Northwestern's faculty in Doha.

The spring Faculty Assembly, scheduled for May 22, will include a panel from The Graduate School, as Dean Teresa Woodruff looks to better define and build cohesion within the Graduate Faculty.

The standing committees of the Senate will be continuing their work on a variety of issues, including shared governance, retirement benefits, and NTE contracts. Academic freedom will be a central focus, both at the initiative of the Senate leadership and in response to concerns raised by faculty in and out of the Senate. The Faculty Handbook Committee will host a panel discussion on academic freedom at the February 13 meeting of the Senate. All faculty are welcome to attend meetings of the full [Senate](#).

We welcome questions about any of the Senate's activities—please feel free to reach out at any time to your own [Senator](#), the chair of any of our [standing committees](#), the [Senate office](#), or [me](#).

Very best wishes for the winter break,

Baron Reed
Professor of Philosophy and Faculty Senate President

faculty-senate@northwestern.edu
(847) 467-6629

northwestern.edu/faculty-senate

Northwestern University ®