

To the Board of Trustees.

Northwestern University frequently touts its commitment to a thriving faculty and shared governance. If ever there was an issue that called for a collaborative attitude from the University it is health care, which affects each of us and our families personally and intimately. Yet, the healthcare change was made, not in partnership, but in secret, and reflects a pattern by which faculty are excluded from important decisions.

Failing to include faculty in important decisions of the University betrays our trust. The health care decision reveals the costs. Collaborating with faculty and staff earlier, and communicating more meaningfully, would have been much more efficient.

To make shared governance real, we ask the Board to support our call for the University to improve its performance in including faculty in relevant decisions. A minimum step is for the administration to include the Senate as partners from the beginning of decisions that affect our capacities to do our jobs.

This letter and other communications from the Senate should make clear that meaningful action is necessary to rectify missteps, restore trust, and reestablish a healthy working relationship.

Respectfully,
The Faculty Senate