

Northwestern University
Minutes of the Faculty Senate
NU-Q and Videoconference
February 11, 2026

The Northwestern University Faculty Senate held its standing monthly meeting on February 11, 2026, from NU-Q's Campus in Doha and over Zoom videoconference. Faculty Senate President Ian Hurd (Political Science) called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. (CST). A quorum was present.

The president noted that the minutes from the January 21, 2026 meeting were approved electronically and entered into the record.

Actions

1. The Faculty Senate voted on a nomination for an honorary degree.

Meeting Summary

I. Honorary Degree Nomination

The Faculty Senate entered a closed session to consider an honorary degree nominee.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate President

President Hurd said the Executive Committee would be meeting with the President, Provost, incoming Provost, and other senior administrators in April.

The president said the Senate leadership and staff are working with the Provost's Office on developing a list of the various university committees on which there sometimes needs to be a faculty representative. Organizing such a list, he said, will help the Senate track important decision points within the administration, and better communicate with faculty on campus matters.

The president said they continue to monitor changes to benefits. Accordingly, the Salary and Benefits Committee plans to hold quarterly meetings with the director of benefits. The president added that faculty can communicate any healthcare issues at the benefits@northwestern.edu email address.

The president said they are also monitoring the effects of the University's agreement with the federal government. The plan, he said, is to meet with university officials responsible for compliance with the deal, documenting what effects or changes might be made as a consequence of the agreement.

Finally, the president asked senators to please share any nominations for Faculty Senate President-Elect.

Senator Ian Horswill (Computer Science) added that senators, while not obligated, could feel free to copy his email address (ian@northwestern.edu) on any communications with HR.

III. Issues of Inter-Campus Governance

With NU-Q hosting the Faculty Senate for the first time, the president opened the floor to senators and all NU-Q faculty to discuss issues related to inter-campus governance.

Faculty and senators on the NU-Q campus proposed hosting at least one Senate meeting a year during this time slot (8-10 a.m. CST) so their senators can attend the meetings live. They also encouraged chairs to take the time change into consideration when scheduling meetings. Furthermore, the NU-Q faculty suggested content relevant to all three campuses be a part of each Senate meeting. Many of the issues on NU-Q campus are unique and important, like, for example, teaching hours for accreditation, which has been a recent subject of change. Faculty there also thanked the Senate for advocating on behalf of NTE faculty.

Chicago senators voiced similar concerns. They also expressed a need for further collaboration between the campuses and hosting meetings in downtown Chicago. Senators

there also said they appreciated when former President Michael Schill and other administrators held listening sessions on the Chicago campus.

Faculty on all three campuses expressed the need for discourse across schools and campuses, and for the university to strengthen its commitment to shared governance. Senators also posed ideas around committee structure, potentially having specific committees dedicated to each of the three campuses.

Faculty who spoke during this portion of the meeting: Anto Mohsin (NU-Q Liberal Arts), Abid Ali (SPS), Helen Tilley (History), Angelique Duenas (Medical Education), Rana Kazkaz (NU-Q Communication Program), Sam Meekings (NU-Q Liberal Arts), Christopher Alario (NU-Q), Joe Khalil (NU-Q Communication Program), Greg Beitel (Molecular Biosciences), Rebecca Zorach (Art History), Axel Mueller (NTE—WCAS),

IV. Standing Committee Report: Faculty Survey

Senator Danny M. Cohen (NTE, SESP), chair of the Faculty Survey Committee, gave an update on the full faculty survey. A full faculty survey was last run in 2015, and the committee has been pushing for years for one to be shared. Given the current climate, he said the committee believes a survey is more urgent than ever before. However, there has always been a question of whether Northwestern would pay for an external service (COACHE has been considered) or run an internal survey. This time last year it appeared Northwestern would pay for the external service, but now with budget constraints, he said the administration has become reluctant to that approach. Senator Cohen said the Senate could still push for an external surveyor if they believed it would be more important to have data to compare to peer institutions. Or, the Senate could push for an internal survey, which would be designed and run by Northwestern faculty and administrators.

The floor was then opened for feedback from senators.

Senators said they believed faculty were worth the investment in a survey, and that being able to compare data with peer institutions would be highly valuable from a benchmarking perspective.

Other senators said a survey should be for the purposes of the faculty and to push for more shared governance at Northwestern.

A suggestion was made to reach out to peer institutions who had used COACHE before and to also work with our peer governing bodies in the Big Ten to see how they have surveyed faculty.

Senators who were a part of the recent NTE survey said that survey was a critical starting point for advocating for change.

Senators who spoke during this portion of the meeting: Anto Mohsin (NU-Q Liberal Arts), TJ Billard (Communication Studies), Helen Tilley (History), Debu Chakravarti (Ob-Gyn), Cat Fabian (NTE, SoC), Ian Horswill (Computer Science), Nikki Spigner (Black Studies)

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jared Spitz
Secretary to the Faculty Senate