Proposal: To establish a Special Committee on University Mission and Values for the academic year 2026–27, with the purpose of advising the Senate's leadership on communication with the administration on these topics.

Notes and rationale:

Article V, Section 3 of the Faculty Senate By-Laws, "Special Faculty Committees," states the following:

1. The Executive Committee can recommend the establishment of special faculty committees to investigate and make recommendations concerning specific issues.
2. The Faculty Senate must approve the formation and duration of all special committees recommended by the Executive Committee.

The purpose of this Special Committee is to organize faculty perspectives on the university's mission with the aim of articulating the value of higher education, of Northwestern's mission in particular, and of the faculty's role in it, to the University administration and the broader community. It could, among other things, review and discuss the university mission, priorities, and guiding principles; offer advice on Northwestern's position amid contemporary challenges to higher education; and address the university's ambition and operations as a global institution (e.g. in relation to international students and scholars, global areas of study, and international collaborations). It may advise the Senate President and others with talking points, white papers, and other resources. The amount of work will be comparable to that of an active standing committee.