

## Statement from the Faculty Senate regarding recent demonstrations on campus

The [mission](#) of Northwestern University embodies a commitment to excellent teaching, innovative research and the personal and intellectual growth of its students in a diverse academic community. The priorities of the University are founded upon the following principles: We transform society. We grow as leaders. We champion access, diversity and belonging. We encourage debate. We embrace breadth and depth. We pursue excellence across all disciplines. We strengthen our community. We care about one another.

As stated in the [Faculty Handbook](#), “Northwestern welcomes the expression of ideas, including viewpoints that may be considered unorthodox or unpopular. The University encourages freedom of speech, freedom of inquiry, freedom of dissent, and freedom to demonstrate in a peaceful fashion. Regardless of their own views, community members share a corresponding responsibility to welcome and promote this freedom for all. They also share a responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to scholarly, creative, and educational pursuits and to respect the safety and rights of all individuals.”

As members of the Faculty Senate, we strive to uphold this mission and these guiding principles. The recent demonstrations on our campus have tested these ideals and we recognize there are divergent viewpoints among our community. Despite these differences, we support the general approach adopted by the University that led to the peaceful dissolution of the student-led encampment. This result strongly reflects the values of our University as stated above, and as elected members of the Faculty Senate we support these values and the arrival at a peacefully negotiated resolution.

*approved on May 8, 2024*