

(Please see bottom for Northwestern Faculty Assembly Petition and Voting Rules)

**PETITION TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS OF THE  
NORTHWESTERN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS FOR  
DISCUSSION AND VOTING AT THE FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**APRIL 21, 10 a.m., Guild Lounge, Scott Hall and Zoom**

*Whereas*, our campus and our country face existential threats to our educational institutions and our democracy; and,

*whereas*, the Northwestern University Board of Trustees, President, Provost, Deans, and Faculty Senate have failed to effectively defend academic freedom and protect the faculty, staff, and students of Northwestern University from unlawful federal actions; and

*whereas*, the Northwestern University Board of Trustees, President, Provost, and Deans have affirmatively instituted policies in compliance with unlawful demands of the federal government antithetical to core values of education and academic freedom; and

*whereas*, Title VI and Northwestern do not operationalize a definition of antidiscrimination for the vast majority of groups Title VI protects against discrimination, e.g., there are no definitions specific to anti-Chinese, anti-Black, or anti-Latino discrimination; and

*whereas*, Northwestern participates in a [discretionary program](#) obligating costly submissions of data allowing Immigration and Customs Enforcement to have direct access to immigrant student, staff, and faculty locations; and

*whereas*, Northwestern "[reserves the right](#) to take whatever steps are necessary ... to investigate suspected violations of University regulations, or to assist appropriate authorities to investigate suspected illegal activities" and states that "files belonging to individuals and/or communications between individuals may be captured, logged, and examined"; and

*whereas*, Northwestern withheld \$23 million from faculty and staff retirement funds withheld during COVID, during the same time frame Northwestern accrued an [\\$83 million surplus](#); and

*whereas*, Northwestern has a \$14 billion endowment, the sole purpose of which is to promote education; and

*whereas* Northwestern is operating in violation of its Charter of 1851, by excluding education-focused visitors from oversight functions obligated by the Charter;

*Be it resolved that*,

**1) The Board of Trustees, President, Provost, Deans, and the Faculty Senate shall**

actively defend academic freedom, including by publicly and steadfastly opposing an organized campaign that is bent on restricting our scholarly and public dialogues, including on Israel and other governments in the Middle East and elsewhere. The university's legal resources shall be used to defend the rights of Northwestern University and its faculty, students, and staff from unlawful federal actions, including from censorship of teaching and research on identities and diversity.

2) Northwestern shall retract any anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies referencing specific groups protected by Northwestern policies on Title VI. Northwestern shall not limit speech, scholarship or criticism of any nation or government.

3) Northwestern shall rely on First Amendment standards in all policies for which speech and behavior, including demonstrations, may be reviewed for purposes of discipline.

4) Northwestern shall abide by the [Illinois Worker Freedom of Speech Act](#), which protects employees "from mandatory participation in employer-sponsored meetings if the meeting is designed to communicate an employer's position on religious or political matters." Northwestern will extend this same protection to all students. This means that Northwestern shall not require anyone to view the video on antisemitism and Islam, "Building a Community of Respect and Breaking Down Bias."

5) Northwestern shall allow all members of the community under investigation by the university to record all meetings with administrators and investigators and freely share all information obtained as a result of being placed under investigation, in compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

6) Northwestern shall not release to any government body names and records unless obligated by court orders.

7) Northwestern shall give 30 day notice to withdraw from its discretionary participation in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, E-Verify.

8) Northwestern shall not review any digital material created with the expectation of privacy without a subpoena, or without notice to the individual and an opportunity for the individual to appeal to a committee composed of community members outside of the administration constituted by students, staff, and faculty selected at random who agree to serve;

9) Northwestern shall rescind preemptive and retroactive cuts and draw on the endowment to meet temporary shortfalls.

10) The Northwestern Board of Trustees shall amend its by-laws to create eight positions of faculty visitors who will have the right to attend all board meetings and review all records to which the trustees have access, the positions to be assumed based on election by those attending Faculty Assemblies, notwithstanding any Faculty Assembly

**By-laws requiring a quorum. Terms will be for two years, commencing no later than the Fall 2025, Faculty Assembly meeting, with the exception that four of the first eight positions will be replaced no later than the meeting of Fall 2026, based on a protocol relying on chance to which a majority of visitors assent, the objective being staggered two-year terms.**

Background information on Faculty Assembly.

<https://www.northwestern.edu/faculty-senate/about/faculty-assembly/bylaws-procedures/>

**Section 1:** The University President will preside over meetings of the Faculty Assembly. The Faculty Senate Chair, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will establish its agenda and convene meetings at fixed dates at least twice a year.

**Section 2:** Additional meetings can be called by petition of at least 100 members of the Faculty Assembly. The faculty must be given a minimum of two weeks notice for all such special meetings with agendas made available at least one week in advance.

**Section 3:** There is no required quorum for the Faculty Assembly to meet. However a quorum consisting of 10% of the membership is necessary to pass resolutions. Only members present at the time of the vote are eligible to vote on any question or motion. In the absence of a quorum, discussion may occur at the discretion of the chair, but no action may be taken except adjournment to a specified future time. Faculty Assembly Members may attend via teleconference or video conference at a single location designated by the Faculty Assembly on the Chicago campus if pressing circumstances prohibit attendance in Evanston. Members of the NU-Q campus may also participate through teleconference or video conference from locations in Qatar. Faculty members participating by teleconference or video conference as described above will be considered present and in attendance for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum.

**Section 4:** The Faculty Senate Chair in consultation with the Executive Committee shall determine the order of business in any meeting of the University Assembly. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of the meetings except as the Faculty Assembly may prescribe.

**Section 5:** All recommendations and resolutions made by the Faculty Assembly will be reported to the full faculty within a week following a meeting.

**Section 6:** Additions to the agenda may be submitted not later than one week prior to the Faculty Assembly meeting with a petition of 75 signatures.