

## **Faculty Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate Annual Report AY 2025-2026**

This academic year is the first in the FAC's existence, having been established by the University Faculty and the Board of Trustees as a set of changes to the Faculty Senate's Constitution and Bylaws. Thus, one of the committee's primary responsibilities in this academic year was simply establishing procedures and practices.

The FAC's charge (available [here](#)) as approved by the Faculty is:

The FAC is responsible for matters of concern to the faculty not comprehensively addressed through existing university structures, including faculty welfare, inclusive excellence, and related matters. This includes items referred to in the Faculty Senate bylaws sections 1.1a, 1.1i, 1.2a, 1.2b, 1.2d, 1.2g, and 1.2h

The numbers above refer to authorities articulated in the the Senate Bylaws (available [here](#)), and refer to matters of academic freedom (1.1a), institutional priorities (1.2a) and allocation of university resources (1.2b), and faculty affairs, particularly as they pertain to faculty welfare (1.2d).

Among the issues that the FAC considered in its first year were:

- 1) A claim about an academic freedom violation in a departmental discussion of sponsorship of a speaker;
- 2) University procedures for addressing questions of safety in classrooms when there are challenging students;
- 3) Developing language for faculty to use in syllabi forbidding students to record classes without permission;
- 4) A plan to review the Senate's procedures for reviewing academic reorganization.

The committee forwarded recommendations to the Executive Council for each of these issues.

We also met with a number of members of the administration to discuss shared concerns about faculty welfare. These included: Amer Ahmed, Vice Provost for Intercultural Excellence; Jane Okech, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Tessay Lucey, Director of Compliance; and Bill Falls, Dean of CAS.

The members of the Committee include:

Feng-Qi Zhao (CALs)

Thomas Borchert (CAS)

Sean Stillwell (CAS)

Melissa Kate Adams-Silva (CESS)

Kimberly Bauerly (CNHS)

Edward Gamble (Grossman)

Margaret Doyle (LCOM)

Bill Majdalany (LCOM)

Shir Bach (Libraries)

Abby McGowan (Senate President)

There were no members from Rubenstein or CEMS.

Respectfully submitted, Thomas Borchert, Chair 2025-2026