



Northeastern University

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Featured Article

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President Joseph Aoun met face-to-face — or more accurately Eye to Eye — with students at a packed forum last week, and all came away enlightened and impressed.

"Our students are tremendously interested and engaged in the life of the university," Aoun said.

"We had the event to bridge the gap between President Aoun and members of his administration and students, by encouraging an open conversation among university administrators and student leaders," said Scott Hultman, CUP's president.

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Three faculty members whose work symbolizes Northeastern's commitment to translational research have been granted tenure by the Board of Trustees.

- William Fowler, Distinguished Professor of history, is [quoted by The Boston Globe](#) about Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust's bestselling Civil War history.
- Hilary Parris, assistant professor of music, [talks with Investors Business Daily](#) about the [composer Vivaldi](#).

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A focus on student-athletes — and on their academic as well as athletic success — and a commitment to excellence highlighted Athletic Director Peter Roby's recommendations culminating a comprehensive review of the university's athletic programs.

That review was conducted in collaboration with the Athletics Review Panel, with members representing a broad cross-section of university stakeholders.

In addition, a groundbreaking fund-raising initiative will add renewed vigor to Northeastern's athletic program, which moves forward with all 19 teams competing at the highest levels, said Roby.

His top-to-bottom review of the athletic program, following his appointment as director in June, was intended to determine "how we achieve and sustain excellence, across the entire scope of athletics, in the long term," said Roby, at an event Tuesday unveiling the recommendations he has made to President Joseph Aoun for the future of Husky athletics.

Among those recommendations:

- Northeastern "will continue to support a full complement of intercollegiate programs. ... There will be no change in the offerings."
- Pending trustee approval, the university will "infuse the athletic budget with additional resources," mostly focused at staff and infrastructure.
- "For the first time in Northeastern's history," there will be a fund-raising initiative specifically targeted to athletics. It will be led by trustee emeritus George Behrakis, "one of the most loyal and generous people and alumni that Northeastern has ever known."
- Roby and other administrators will concentrate on "a long-range plan to assess and find solutions to our facilities issues."

He said he is committed to "working with a number of constituency groups" at Northeastern on the future of athletics, and hopes to meet with both alumni and students to continue the discussion started during last fall's meetings of the Athletics Review Panel.

At Tuesday's event, Roby thanked the group — led by trustee Carole Shapazian — for its "support, insight, feedback and candid contributions."

In response to questions, Roby said Northeastern belongs in the Colonial Athletic Association, which is both competitive and aspirational for Husky teams.

He also pointed to Aoun's enthusiasm for a stronger athletics program.



Athletic Director Peter Roby explains his recommendations for Husky sports. / Craig Bailey

"The biggest reason I'm excited about where we're headed is President Aoun's support," Roby said.

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Three faculty members whose work symbolizes Northeastern's commitment to translational research have been granted tenure by the Board of Trustees.

Assistant professor Jessica Blom-Hoffman of counseling and applied educational psychology, in Bouvé College of Health Sciences, assistant professor Rupal Patel in speech-language pathology, also in Bouvé, and associate professor Ravi Sundaram, in the College of Computer and Information Science, joined the university's roster of distinguished tenured faculty.

Blom-Hoffman, who holds a Ph.D. from Lehigh University, specializes in school-based prevention of childhood overweight. She is the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health-funded research project to explore ways to promote fruit and vegetable consumption among elementary school students attending Boston public schools.

Patel, whose Ph.D. is from the University of Toronto, founded and directs the Communication Analysis and Design Laboratory. It conducts research along two main themes: analysis of spoken communication, and the design, development and assessment of novel assistive human-machine interfaces.

Sundaram, with a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, focuses on networks and algorithms, specifically network performance and approximation algorithms for the design and efficient utilization of networks.

The three join the latest class of faculty tenured and promoted in board decisions last year:

Murray Forman, communication studies, College of Arts and Sciences.
Cynthia Jackson, accounting, College of Business Administration.
Timothy Love, School of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences.
Andrew Rohm, marketing, College of Business Administration.
Olin Shivers, College of Computer and Information Science.
Mark Williams, physics, College of Arts and Sciences.
Kathrin Zippel, sociology and anthropology, College of Arts and Sciences.

Six faculty members were hired last fall with tenure. They are:

James Dana, economics, College of Arts and Sciences, jointly appointed with the College of Business Administration.
Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, English, College of Arts and Sciences.
Craig Ferris, psychology, College of Arts and Sciences.
Lev Perelman, physics, College of Arts and Sciences, jointly appointed with the College of Engineering.
David Luzzi, dean of the College of Engineering.
Arnold Wright, accounting, College of Business Administration.

The Voice will profile each newly tenured professor in an upcoming

series of stories.

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President Joseph Aoun speaks at the CUP forum. / Craig Bailey

President Joseph Aoun met face-to-face — or more accurately Eye to Eye — with students at a packed forum last week, and all came away enlightened and impressed.

"Our students are tremendously interested and engaged in the life of the university," Aoun said.

The Council for University Programs (CUP) hosted the Eye to Eye forum on Feb. 5 in the packed ballroom of Curry Student Center.

"We had the event to bridge the gap between President Aoun and members of his administration and students, by encouraging an open conversation among university administrators and student leaders," said Scott Hultman, CUP's president, this week.

"The event was a success, both in terms of attendance and in meeting the goals of the event," he said. "We are looking at the possibility of creating an 'Eye to Eye' series that focuses on different issues on campus."

The president publicly thanked the group for organizing and hosting the forum. "I look forward to more such discussions in the future," he wrote. (The full text of the president's letter to faculty and staff about the event appears below.)

Answers to questions submitted by students for the forum may be found at:

<http://www.cup.neu.edu/aoun/index.php>.

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