

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPARENCY,
EQUITABLE STUDENT AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION, AND
FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is home to many higher education institutions and to thousands of students from around the world who seek a quality education, however, many students, faculty, and community members have felt ignored and that their concerns are not properly represented at their universities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Higher education institutions are beacons of democracy, and democracy values should be upheld within campuses themselves with pathways for meaningful involvement in decision-making processes and transparency; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council Committee on Education held a hearing on administrative transparency, equitable student representation, and student freedoms in higher education on March 23, 2026, where it heard from students, faculty, experts, and more; *and*
- WHEREAS,** At this hearing, Northeastern University community members uplifted issues such as DEI and budget cuts, restricting cultural center hours without advance notice or student consultation, declining enrollment of Black students, lack of communication from the administration regarding protecting international students and policy on ICE presence on campus, lack of timely communication for adjunct faculty's course placements, rising tuition cost without an understanding of where their money is going, lack of formal mechanisms that hold Northeastern accountable for implementing legislation passed by the Student Government Association, and the President's unwillingness to sit with the student-run newspaper for an interview; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This hearing also discussed broader concerns about higher education institutions, such as the lack of transparency around Boards of Trustees and similar administrative boards; lack of student, faculty, and staff involvement and representation in decision-making despite having valuable firsthand experience and insight; limitations on freedom of speech; the need for shared

governance; and the need for updates about decisions that are being made;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED,

That the Boston City Council calls for greater administrative transparency, open and shared governance, and pathways for community engagement from all higher educational institutions. This includes actions such as providing timely updates from and publicizing the meeting minutes and committee membership of Boards of Trustees or similar administrative boards; adding seats for student, faculty, and staff representatives as appropriate in decision-making bodies; creating mechanisms for general community input and involvement; communicating decisions and policies in a more timely manner; approaching labor relations that emphasizes collaboration and communication; good-faith efforts to implement student government legislation; communicating more openly with campus and local media; hosting public town hall opportunities for community dialogue; and more.

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