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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXVII-M8 2023 Ad Hoc Committee on Discovery - Committee Membership Parameters

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXVII-M8

2023 Ad Hoc Committee on Discovery - Committee Membership Parameters

4/17/2023

- 1. Motion Presenter:** Vice Chair Vidya Sundar on behalf of the Agenda Committee
- 2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion:** 3/6/2023, 3/20/2023, 4/27/2023, 4/10/2023 and 4/17/2023
- 3. Rationale:** The Faculty Senate acknowledges previous efforts to review and update our current Discovery Curriculum and thanks members of the Discovery Review Committee (DRC) and the General Education Review Committee (GERC). The Faculty Senate recognizes the need to continue this work to reimagine our Discovery/General Education curriculum and meet the needs of 21st century learners.
- 4. Motion:** Faculty Senate endorses the Agenda Committee's plans for the 2023 Ad Hoc Committee on Discovery's membership parameters and committee framework.
- 5. Senate Action:** The motion passed with 49 in the affirmative, 9 opposed and 0 abstentions.
- 6. Senate Chair's signature:**

Forwarded to the following on April 26, 2023:

President James Dean
Wayne Jones, Provost
Kate Ziemer, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
All deans and associate deans
All department chairs
Nadine Petty, Chief Diversity Officer
Barbara White, Interim Faculty Director, Discovery Program

Background:

The current General Education curriculum, known as the Discovery Program, provides the intellectual framework for undergraduate students at UNH. It represents the faculty's collective belief in what constitutes and contributes to essential knowledge of the world. Since its introduction in 2009, the original components of the Discovery Program were implemented with varying degrees of success. Two recent reviews of the Discovery Program in 2016 and 2022 highlighted concerns such as an outdated curriculum, lack of flexibility in the program structure, and multiple Discovery category requirements. The Student Senate passed a resolution (R44.03) in May 2022, demanding Faculty Senate continue working on Discovery course requirements.

Furthermore, the merger of Granite State College with UNH brings new challenges and opportunities to streamline and standardize the General Education curriculum for all UNH students. It is now critical that we re-evaluate our current Discovery Program and modernize it, so that it meets the needs of our 21st century learners.

The 2023 Ad Hoc Committee on Discovery

Members of the 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery will be responsible for developing a new framework and curriculum for general education at UNH. The committee will include (1) a core group of members from across the University and (2) an advisory group. The 2023 Committee on Discovery will use a shared governance model to ensure that the proposed general education framework and curriculum provides a broad-based education for all our students. Broadly speaking, the committee will be composed of faculty members, students, and university administrators in both voting and non-voting roles. Committee composition should be representative of gender, ethnicity, career stage, and faculty appointment type.

Core members

The following members will participate as full voting members

- **Faculty (n=13)**: Two faculty members from each undergraduate-serving college (PCBE, CEPS, CHHS, COLSA, COLA, and CPS) and one faculty member from the Library. Members will be confirmed by Faculty Senate after consultation with the Provost, College Dean, and Department Chair due to workload requirement (*details below in *Member Compensation* section). One member will be appointed as Chair of the Core group by the Agenda Committee.
- **Students (n=2)**: Two students from two different colleges, nominated by the Student Senate. Student members may include current undergraduate students or a graduate student who is recent alumnus of any UNH undergraduate program. Student members should represent the voice of all students not just the college they belong to.
- **University Administrator (n=1)**: University administrators are valuable members who can provide institutional context and feedback regarding the implementation of the general education curriculum. One representative from the Academic Standards and Advising Committee (ASAC). The ASAC member will represent the voice of administrators from all colleges.

Ex-officio members

The committee will include the following ex-officio members, in a non-voting role

1. Director of the Discovery Program
2. Chair of the Student Senate (or designee)
3. Faculty member from the online division of CPS (formerly GSC)
4. Chair of Faculty Senate or designee
5. SVPAA
6. Administrative Support Personnel

The ex-officio, non-voting members have an additional responsibility of working closely with and interfacing between the Faculty Senate, members of the senior administration, discovery program staff, students, and the Advisory group (described below). Ex-officio members will participate in all regular meetings of the Core group.

Advisory group for the 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery

The 2023 Committee on Discovery will be supported by an advisory group, which will include subject matter experts, stakeholders from within and outside the university, who can contribute to the shaping of the general education curriculum and its future implementation. The advisory group will participate in a kick-off meeting and quarterly meetings to provide feedback to the core members. All advisory group members are non-voting, *ad hoc* members, expected to participate only at key checkpoints.

- **University faculty, administrators, and staff** such as a representative from Career and Professional Success (CAPS), Dean of Students, Registrar or designee, Director of Civil Rights and Equity Office (CREO) or designee, representative from professional advising team, chair of ad hoc committee on Gen. Ed. Diversity requirement, faculty member from Law school, and others, as needed.
- **Alumni**, especially recent undergraduate students, are in a unique position to reflect on their experiences with undergraduate education at UNH and provide feedback on the current Discovery curriculum and ways in which it can be improved. Members may be identified by the Alumni Association.
- **Business Leaders** possess real-world experience that allows them to understand the skills that students need in order to be successful in a competitive world. Members may be identified by CAPS, the President's office, or the Provost's office, in conjunction with Faculty Senate leadership.