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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXVII-M6 Development of a New Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXVII-M6

Development of a New Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee

- 1. Motion Presenter:** Senator Andrew Seal on behalf of the Agenda Committee
- 2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion:** 2/20/2023 and 3/6/2023
- 3. Rationale:** The Faculty Senate acknowledges previous efforts to review and update our current Discovery program 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:** The Faculty Senate instructs the Agenda Committee to form an ad hoc committee to review and revamp UNH's Discovery/general education curriculum.
- 5. Senate Action:** The motion passed with 54 in the affirmative, 1 opposed and 4 abstentions
- 6. Senate Chair's signature:**

Forwarded to the following on March 30, 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 Two recent reviews of the Discovery Program in 2016 and 2022 highlighted concerns such as outdated curriculum, lack of flexibility in the program structure, and multiple Discovery category requirements.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.