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### 2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - September 26, 2022 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII

The fundamental function of the approved minutes of the Faculty Senate is to accurately document actions taken by that body. Additionally, the minutes traditionally seek to provide context by capturing some statements of Senators, faculty in attendance, and guests. The minutes do not verify the veracity, authenticity, and/or accuracy of those statements.

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM on September 26, 2022, via ZOOM

MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll: The following senators had notified the administrative coordinator s/he would be absent: Peshkova, Halpern (was represented by proxy Niva Gupta), Lyon (on sabbatical), Spindel (was represented by proxy Emily Baer), Chirila, Planalp (was represented by proxy Erik Berda), Magnusson, Seal, Schuh, Burdin, McKinsey, LeBlanc, Potter (represented by proxy Siobhan Senier). The following were guests: UNH President James Dean, Provost Wayne Jones, SVPAA Kate Ziemer, Sarah Batterson, GSC; Christian Lipovsky, UNH Student Senate; Catherine Peebles, UNH Honors Program; Cliff Brown, Sociology; Barbara White, Interim Director Discovery Program, and Krisztina Varga, Chair MCSB

II. Comments by and Question to UNH President James Dean

President Dean took a break from attending the New Hampshire Business and Industry Association meeting to join Faculty Senate. During his comments, he shared he had just come from a presentation where he advocated for more state funding and resources to benefit the greater USNH community. He said the request was well received and has been added to BIA document outlining their legislative initiatives for the coming year. In addition, President Dean shared he and Provost Jones are scheduled to meet with each of the UNH colleges and schools in the coming weeks. Their first meeting with COLA took place a few weeks ago. In addition, President Dean shared the following:

1. His appreciation for Faculty Senate's tradition of shared governance.
2. President Dean thanked members of the faculty and shared his many encounters with UNH alumni where he is consistently told of the ways in which UNH faculty have impacted their lives. He recognized research faculty for the implications of their work across the state, country, and planet.
3. President Dean referenced the Discovery curriculum and the importance of these courses in everyday discourse. In particular, President Dean stressed the importance of data and understanding data. The need to be able to discern between accurate and inaccurate data and the subsequent information such data provides.
4. Lastly, President Dean shared that UNH students need to learn empathy. He recently read a survey that showed literature to be an excellent tool for teaching empathy. Empathy coupled with the understanding of core technical skills will help prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

Question: A COLA Senator asked President Dean how he manages conflicts of interest in his dual role of UNH President and USNH Interim Chancellor.

Answer: All actions taken with the Board of Trustees are public. President Dean continually acknowledges this dual role when meeting with the BOT. He makes informed decisions and invites member of the BOT representing UNH and/or USNH to ask for further clarity on any given issue or decision.

Ivo Nedyalkov thanked President Dean for his efforts in contract negotiations.

Question: A COLA guest asked about a senate resolution passed on August 30, 2021 that affirmed that faculty have primary responsibility and authority over course content, pedagogy, and modality. The questioner wondered if there has been a formal or informal response from the administration about that resolution?

Answer: President Dean replied he does not believe there has been a formal response to that resolution. The resolution represents how the university operates. Faculty do have control over their classes. Faculty have made excellent decisions about how to support students, particularly with COVID accommodations.

Question: A COLSA Senator asked when the university anticipated the Granite State College merger being completed and if the completion is on schedule? Is there any way to know if the merger will be financially beneficial to the university? If yes, then when?

Answer: President Dean answered the merger is getting close to completion. Many faculty have been involved in making this happen. There were hurdles to overcome, one being GSC had faculty categories that did not align with UNH faculty categories. This has since been rectified. With regards to the financial advantages, President Dean shared the university is already seeing those financial advantages, particularly with regards to faculty and the elimination of duplicate resources. President Dean asked Provost Jones to add any additional thoughts.

Provost Jones shared the merger is on track for the July 1 start date. Items that needed collaboration were aligning calendars, the admission cycles and number of weeks per semester to name a few. The budget models show the merger will be good for the UNH margin, but more importantly is the marketing and branding opportunities the merger provides for the university.

Question: A COLSA senator shared he had attended a lecture of Dr. Samantha Nutt who is an expert on the world impact of armed conflicts. She spoke of how gun violence and the trafficking of guns is fundamental to the problems faced both here in the US and the greater world. She shared that colleges and universities could help by divesting from companies that profit from gun sales. What is the university's investment in companies that sell and profit from guns? Will the university commit to divesting from such companies?

Answer: University investments are managed by the Foundation Board and the Foundation Board of Trustees. They have adopted a set of criteria for investments that goes by the generic name and ESG, which stands for environmental, social, and governance. These investments that pass through ESG have been out performing more traditional investments. President Dean thought gun sales were part of the ESG screening, but he would be meeting with that board later in the week and would report back.

Provost Jones also attended the talk referenced above and was sitting next to a Foundation Board member. This Board member was also of the thought that UNH is already divested from companies selling and profiting from guns, but they too were going to investigate further. As the speaker noted, in large investment portfolios like TIAA CREF, these kinds of investments are embedded, but asking the question is the first step to making a change.

President Dean provided further context by sharing that the foundation board investing on behalf of the university isn't making individual investments. He used Sig Sauer as an example. The foundation would not single out Sig Sauer and invest a sum of money.

Question: A Senator from COLSA raised the issue of significant problems with mail services on campus. Many pieces of mail were getting delivered to the wrong building. Last week there were 40 pieces of mail wrongly delivered his building.

Answer: President Dean was unaware of these problems and agreed it is unacceptable and needs to be addressed. Provost Jones is aware and is working on the issue. He will report back when he has more information.

President Dean left the meeting.

### III. Comments By and Questions for Provost Jones

Provost Jones recently had lunch with a group of assistant professors who raised frustrations regarding grant submission and the UNH policy that only the PI can get credit (return on Indirect) within the university system. Provost Jones wanted to ensure faculty are aware this policy was changed. Currently every grant has the ability to add percentage contributions. Wayne will ensure this message is spread through multiple channels.

Question: A senator shared he has seen this change implemented and it is working well.

Question: A COLA Senator raised the issue of the motion pending before Senate that would allow for an expanded role on Faculty Senate. There was a discussion in her department regarding some CCLEAR faculty not being compensated for service. This Senator felt voting in support of the motion is a tricky decision because she would not want to inadvertently set up a scenario where CCLEAR faculty feel pressured into uncompensated service. Yet, at the same time, she sees the value in expanding faculty access to Senate. She wanted to know what administration could do to ensure all members of Faculty Senate are compensated for their time.

Answer: Provost Jones did not want to answer a question that could be construed as influencing a Senate vote. He asked to wait until Senate comes to its decision on the issue and perhaps revisit the question.

Question: A COLA Senator asked if there were any updates on the pedestrian safety issues on campus?

Answer: There is a committee looking at these issues. Many of the worst trouble spots for pedestrian safety are off campus and are under the purview of the town of Durham. The university has given the town multiple ideas to enhance safety, none of them accepted.

Question: A CEPS Senator shared he recently spoken with an electric vehicle group gaining momentum on campus. The group had originally been sponsored by the MUB, but is now affiliated with the Mechanical Engineering Department. This switch has created a change in their

funding in that the group must first be approved by the ME department and then again by the MUB. This creates extra steps in the funding process.

Answer: Provost Jones shared funding for student organizations come from student fees. Student fees flow through the MUB. Stacey Hall is the director of the MUB. Those funds would flow through her office. She would be best person to answer questions related to the added step.

A CEPS Senator shared he runs three student groups all funded through the MUB. He suggests leaving the funding through the MUB, but offered to share his experiences and insights on this issue with the previous questioner.

IV. Approval of minutes from May 9, 2022 XXVI; May 9, 2022 XXVII and August 29, 2022. All were approved by unanimous consent.

V. Remarks by the Chair

- The New Budget Model: Final details are still being work through. Faculty should expect an official announcement regarding the budget model within the next 2-4 weeks. The faculty representative to this committee is Roger Allan Ford. Matt asked if Roger had any further insights or information to share? Roger felt he was too new to the committee to share anything more at this time.
- First Day Complete: Matt is currently gathering feedback from faculty regarding the First Day programs. He confirmed with SVPAA Ziemer she will be attending the October 3, 2022 Agenda Committee meeting to further discuss FDC.
- UCAPC Vacancies: There are significant vacancies on UCAPC and a few on Discovery. Matt asked Senators to send him any suggestions they might have on filling these positions.
- November 7 Caucus Meetings: All deans have confirmed their participation. Traditionally a senator acts as a moderator to the conversation.

Questions: A current member of UCAPC shared with the group that changes to UCAPC last year resulted in the committee working more like a pilot committee. Given the size of the committee, 15 faculty and all of the associate deans, the group is large. The associate deans often know more than the faculty which creates a scenario where faculty members must often do a significant amount of background work to catch up. The senator suggested this new “pilot UCAPC” be further explored given the time commitment of the committee.

Matt answered he would let Dan, Carmella, or Kate Ziemer respond to that thought. Dan Innis, shared UCAPC is working with the Agenda Committee on a new charter for UCAPC. In particular, the committee wants to address the time commitment and the burden placed on members. He concurred that the associate deans did have more knowledge, and this did create extra work for members. At the same time, he trusted their input and thought the process worked well.

Kate Ziemer was asked for input. She shared that the committee started in the fall of 2021 looking at “everything” and realized this was too much. The committee shrank their focus to just

new programs and new courses. This helped alleviate some of the time burden on members. Dan concurred that it did get more efficient as the year progressed. By spring the committee was in a good place.

Jim Connell shared the intent of the Agenda Committee in making changes to UCAPC was so find the best path forward. The committee should continually evolve as needed.

#### VI. Constitutional Amendment regarding CCLEAR faculty on Senate.

Matt shared the Agenda Committee was withdrawing the motion introduced at the August 29 Faculty Senate meeting due to the confusion regarding the language of the motion on the slide and what was verbally conveyed in introducing the motion. The Agenda Committee is reintroducing the motion at today's meeting and will vote on the motion at the next Senate meeting on October 17, 2022. Faculty Senate Vice Chair Vidya Sundar reintroduced the motion. In presenting the motion Vidya shared slides showing:

- Current language in the Faculty Senate Constitution related to elections
- The size breakdown of the academic departments represented on Senate, < 16 = 21 departments; 16 – 40 = 23 departments; > 40 = 2 departments.
- The current make-up of TT and CCLEAR faculty equals 75% vs 25% respectively.
- Senate currently has 71 senators and 3 vacancies.

Language in the motion removes the restriction that each department be represented by at least one TT faculty member.

Vidya opened the floor to discussion.

A COLA Senator asked a question clarifying the confusion at the last meeting. He was confirming the motion removes the TT faculty stipulation and why? Why not keep a TT requirement in departments with two or more senators?

ANSWER: The Agenda Committee discussed this at length and the idea is allow all UNH faculty equal access to Faculty Senate. Matt added the impetus behind the motion is in the tradition of a representative form of government.

Agenda Committee member Jim Connell apologized to Senate for missing the AC meeting in which the language was changed and his lack of knowledge in this regard.

A CEPS Senator raised a question regarding the 75% rule. If a member of faculty is required to have a 75% appointment in a department but also has a 25% appointment in another department Senate may not want them representing a department for which they only have a 25% appointment.

Vidya appreciated the point and raised the question as to whether an amendment should be made to the motion to reflect this question. Matt answered no, not an amendment at this time. This is logistically very difficult. It would be very difficult to explore senate participation at this level of detail.

Jim Connell shared that all faculty are assigned a home. Most often this home is with an academic department represented on Faculty Senate, this is not always true, but more often than not, it is true. He used EOS as an example. Most CCLEAR faculty on EOS have a home

department and all TT faculty do. Faculty with joint appointments are assigned a home department.

A Senator wanted more clarity around the 75% rule asking 75% of what? This 75% should be further clarified.

There was a discussion around faculty who are split 50 50 between departments. The senator from the Women's and Gender Studies department shared that most faculty within her department have joint appointments with a 50 50 split and for this reason, they are unable to appear on the ballot as faculty within that department.

A Senator from Paul College raised the issue of benefits and costs of ensuring TT faculty are on Senate. What will happen to faculty governance if TT faculty are slowly removed from Senate.

Vidya shared the Agenda Committee discussed a shift in composition may occur on Senate. The result of this amendment may mean fewer tenure track faculty either in the short term or the long term. However, at the same time, the AC felt like if there were restrictions on who could serve, this may be patronizing to folks who are being kept away from the opportunity to serve. Part of the AC's rationale was that the constitution should not act as gatekeeper by saying that certain classes of faculty can serve while others cannot. Instead, it should be up to each department. If a department feels that a tenure track faculty would be the best class of faculty to represent their department, then they should elect a tenure-track faculty member.

The Senator from Paul College continued with her question and wondered if in an attempt to avoid being patronizing, there is a loss to Faculty Senate status? It's already a challenge to get the attention of the university President and Provost on issues faculty care about. Given the hierarchical nature of higher education, does Senate risk it's power in its effort to avoid being patronizing. Does the senate lose its power with fewer tenure and tenure track faculty?

Chair Matt shared that Senate is currently 75% TT faculty. There is no evidence to suggest this amendment will result a dramatic shift in the faculty make-up of Senate. There is however evidence to support that equity is an important issue.

A COLA senator revisited the idea from a previous Senate meeting whereby CCLEAR faculty may feel pressured to serve. In addition, CCLEAR faculty are not compensated for service to the same degree as TT faculty. Is Senate comfortable voting on an amendment like this when these issues have not yet been resolved?

A CHHS senator asked for the breakdown of TT and CCLEAR faculty across the university? Should these number help in determining a corresponding breakdown on Senate?

A COLA senator shared the proposed language doesn't *require* departments to elect CCLEAR faculty. There remains agency within departments to elect whomever they wish.

A member of the CCLEAR faculty responded to the previous questioner who suggested FS may lose its voice if there is a balance shift between TT and CCLEAR faculty. He asked members of the Senate to think back on previous meetings both this year and last and remember who was most vocal and participatory. Particularly in questioning the president and the provost. Often the most vocal members of Faculty Senate have been the CCLEAR faculty. Vidya agreed and shared that CCLEAR faculty have also stepped up to senate leadership positions.

The senator from Sociology shared the Senate loophole that already allows CCLEAR faculty to serve. In her small department there is only one senate representative. They elected a TT faculty member but then installed her at the permanent proxy. She has served for the 3 years in this capacity. In responding to a previous senator's concerns regarding CCLEAR faculty feeling safe to speak out on issues pertinent to faculty, this senator went on share she believed non-tenured, tenure track faculty are the most vulnerable as speaking out might impact their tenure.

A member of the Agenda Committee reminded the group that though the current UNH administration might be open to hearing from all faculty, administrations change. There is no way to know what newer administrators might think. Having the protection of tenure may have its advantages. TT faculty are responsible for research, teaching and service. Although CCLEAR may have some of these requirements, TT faculty are the only faculty required to do all three.

Chair Matt encouraged faculty to take the discussion back to their respective departments to discuss.

## VII. Committee Updates

RPSC: Ivo Nedyalkov Chair of the Research and Public Services Committee reminded the group of 3 motions passed over the past few years impacting promotion and tenure. He offered a brief description of each and asked those seeking more information to contact him directly.

Student Affairs Committee: Committee Chair Liz Harvey shared both SVPAA Ziemer and Dawna Perez will be joining her committee to discuss Knack tutoring. Given there had been discussions regarding the Knack tutoring at a previous senate meeting, Liz encouraged senators with concerns, comments, thoughts and questions to send those her way.

Library Committee: The Library Committee is considering work that began last year regarding the future of the library committee. Both the library faculty and Library Dean have been consulted regarding these ideas. The future of the Library Committee is currently under review by the Agenda Committee.

Information Technology Committee: ITC Chair Julee Holcombe shared her committee works closely with Enterprise Technology and Services. Julee had three announcements to share. 1.) Spring 2023 will see the roll out of a new accommodations management system. This will be a cloud-based system designed to work specifically with the Accessibility Office. The committee sought feedback from Scott Lapinski as to why a new system was needed. The feedback received was that Clockwork, which is the current UNH system, has flaws and has become burdensome to use. 2.) Multi-Factor Authentication Email: There is currently a pilot program underway. 3.) ITC is working with UNH information security services, i.e., cyber security. Committee member Kai Germaschewski is taking the lead. The committee is working through account management, remote access, and vulnerability and patch standards. In the spring of 2022, the committee assessed the new email standards. Julee encouraged members of Faculty Senate to reach out to her and the committee if they have questions or are experiencing any technical issues.

A CHHS senator asked if the committee knew what the time was for the role out of the new accommodations management system? Secondly, has the SAS office provided any distinction between temporary short term supports and long term, formalized accommodations. Julee answered the roll out of the new system is spring 2023. She was not aware if the new process will address the second part of the question, but she will inquire.



A CEPS senator asked if the new system was being piloted first? Julee answered she did know but will ask the question and report back.

Campus Planning Committee: Committee chair Jim Malley shared the committee has a meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> with the four leaders of campus facilities and transportation, Ken Weston, Steve Pesci, Bill Janelle and William McNamara. Senators were urged to share questions and concerns regarding campus facilities, stewardship, and transportation with the committee prior to the meeting.

Matt asked if the committee had any update as to when the work on work on College Road outside of Rudman Hall is to be completed? Jim shared the project was estimated to take a year to complete. The work appears to be on track for the one year time frame. Secondly, is there anything the committee can do to help better regulate the extreme temperature differentials on campus? Some buildings run too cold, others too hot. Jim answered the committee can consistently raise the issue with groups like the Sustainability Institute and the Energy Committee. These problems are often dependent upon grants to address.

#### VIII. New Business

No new business was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned.