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2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - November 14, 2022 Minutes Summary

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - November 14, 2022 Minutes Summary" (2022).
Faculty Senate Agendas & Minutes. 17.
https://scholars.unh.edu/faculty_senate_agendas_minutes/17

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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 November 14, 2022, via ZOOM

MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll: The following senators were absent: Lyon, Malley, Magnusson, Mohr, Salvio, McKinney (proxy for Ramadanovic), Krasner, and O'Brien. Senator Halpern was represented by proxy Wu. Senator DeJoie was represented by proxy Godshall. Following the Committee of the Whole, guests included SVPAA Kate Ziemer, Christian Lipovsky, Caroline Kanaskie, and Sarah Batterson

II. Chair Matthew MacManes called the meeting to order.

Matt shared the Agenda Committee has been hard at work to determine next steps with regards to the superior motion from the previous meeting regarding the pending constitutional amendment. He shared the agenda committee had held a special session and developed a flow chart for the purposes of today's meeting. A senator requested to see the flow chart. Matt shared he did not think it was finalized enough for full senate viewing.

Matt then shared he would be recommending senate move into a Committee of the Whole (COTW) to discuss the pending Constitutional Amendment regarding CCLEAR representation on Faculty Senate. The COTW constitutes a closed door session whereby only members of Faculty Senate can be present.

A CEPS senator asked for clarity regarding the Committee of the Whole. Is there additional information regarding this parliamentary procedure.

Matt offered an explanation and senators were reminded there was a link to Roberts Rules of Order, COTW in the meeting agenda.

Because COTW operates as a close door session, Matt asked guests including Catherine Peebles and Christian Lipovsky to vacate the meeting. Other individuals on the call whose names were not clear were asked to identify themselves. Both were members of Faculty Senate.

A motion was made to move Faculty Senate into a Committee of the Whole. The motion passed with 49 in favor, 5 opposed and 2 abstentions. Vice Chair Vidya Sundar was appointed the chair of the COTW.

Robert's Rules of Order dictate that no minutes are taken during the Committee of the Whole.

III. Discussion and Vote on Constitutional Amendment

Faculty Senate moved out of Committee of the Whole. Based on work done in the COTW, Chair Matt moved to call a vote on the constitutional amendment pending on the floor. A COLA senator asked if there was another motion recently referenced? What is the status of that motion? Matt shared given the outcome of the vote in the COTW, the need for the aforementioned motion would be unnecessary. Jim Connell who had addressed this amendment to the current motion concurred with Chair Matt.

A vote was called on the Constitutional Amendment expanding the access of CCLEAR faculty to Faculty Senate.

Motion: Constitutional amendment removing restrictions on appointments of CCLEAR Faculty

The first paragraph of Article 2 of the University of New Hampshire Faculty Senate Constitution is hereby amended to strike the third, fourth, and fifth sentences, replacing them with the following one sentence. “The appointment may be filled by any faculty member who holds a 75% or greater appointment at the University of New Hampshire.” The new paragraph shall read:

2. Membership. Each academic department shall elect one, two, or three members to the Faculty Senate, depending on the department's size based on the number of eligible to serve faculty. Departments with 15 or fewer faculty shall elect one senator, departments with 16-40 faculty shall elect two senators, and departments with more than 40 faculty shall elect three senators. The appointment(s) may be filled by any faculty member who holds a 75% or greater appointment at the University of New Hampshire

The motion passed with 41 in favor, 20 opposed and 1 abstention. With 61 senators voting, the motion passed with 2/3 of voting members.

Vice Chair Vidya Sundar shared she wanted to thank everyone for sharing their comments and experiences and fighting for what they believe in. Vidya went on to share when she started at UNH she was not a tenure track faculty member and was not able to serve on senate. In discussing who can and cannot serve on senate and who makes a good senator, Vidya shared the distinction is senate itself as the gatekeeper as to who can represent their department well. Vidya continued she does not consider herself to be a different person now that she is a tenure track faculty member. She did not share her thoughts with the group during the COTW because as the chair she felt it important she remain objective. She again thanked everyone for voting for what they believe in.

IV. Discussion and vote on AAC motion regarding calendar changes

AAC Chair Rosemary Caron began her remarks by offering thanks to the Agenda Committee for their thoughts and insights with regards to this motion. She went on to thank Tim Montminy for his leadership in her absence at the previous Faculty Senate meeting and for reaching out to GSC. The information shared by GSC provided additional information and support regarding the rationale for the motion. Lastly Rosemary thanked the members of the AAC for their thoughtful efforts regarding this motion.

Rosemary shared additional language that was added to the rationale for the motion. This language included references to federal financial aid compliance, faculty contractual hours, E-Terms and Paul College programs.

Rationale: To align UNH and GSC Spring Break calendar to minimize business operations impact and to ensure that all UNH students benefit from Spring Break.

The following changes to the calendar are proposed:

- **GSC will utilize existing Half Term I and II designations that exist in Banner today, renamed Term 1 and Term 2 for Fall Semester and Term 3 and Term 4 for Spring Semester.**
- **All Term (formerly Half Term) session dates will be expanded to encompass a full 8 weeks for both Fall and Spring. Half Term courses today at UNH run for 7 weeks. This will require a change**

in the current cut over dates from Term 1 (formerly Half Term I) End to Term 2 (formerly Half Term II) Start.

- **UNH Spring Break will need to shift one week (later) from current practice, to occur in the middle of the terms, allowing for a full 8 weeks before Spring Break and a full 8 weeks after.**
- **Term courses do not have a final exam week. Final exams, if given, must be administered during the scheduled class dates.**
- **Terms 2 and 4 (Fall and Spring) will overlap with UNH full semester Finals weeks, but both exist within the standard start and ends of term, thus comply with non-overlapping term requirements.**
- **GSC will offer one summer session, lasting 8 weeks, that will be aligned with either the full summer UNH start, or the start of the 8-week summer term for UNH. This will be decided once the discussion of E-term and Terms is complete.**

Source: Academic Calendar Merger Recommendations, September 2022; modified in October 2022.)

Motion: Starting AY 2023-2024, move UNH Spring Break (for all UNH students on the Durham and Manchester campuses)1 to ensure that it occurs between the 8-week Term 3 and the 8-week Term 4. Following Spring Break 2027, a review of the impact of this calendar change will be conducted by Faculty Senate, prior to implementing the AY 2028-2029 calendar.

Rosemary asked that SVPAA Ziemer be allowed to address senate to offer any additional information or insights with regards to the new language in the rationale. Chair Matt recognized Kate.

SVPAA Ziemer shared that the Graduate Council has reviewed the shifting of the E-term start dates to align with the start of the fall and spring calendars. This shift received unanimous approval from all members of the Graduate Council. This approval directly addresses the federal financial aid compliance issue as well as faculty contractual times. In addition, outreach was made to Chief Dean regarding the impact the calendar change would have on Saint Patrick's Day (SPD) celebrations. Chief Dean was very complimentary and supportive of the efforts made to reduce the amount of improper student behavior, but noted, through the years the university has had other initiatives, particularly within Student Affairs and for this reason he did not see SPD as a barrier to the shifting of spring break.

Rosemary went on to share that in addition, committee member Tim Montminy received comments regarding the proposed calendar changes from GSC faculty member Sarah Batterson. Sarah's comments included:

- Without this calendar alignment, some UNH-M and GSC students would not get a break between term 3 and term 4.
- Lack of student preparation for Spring term B due to a focus on term A final projects.
- Students could begin the next term without having received their grades from the prior term.
- Impact on quality and faculty workload. Faculty, the registrar, and instructional design support teams would be working on two terms at once.
- Enrollment concerns have been brought. Should there be no break in-between terms, there could be student burnout, with students electing not to enroll in term four. GSC refers to term 4 as term B.
- Administration and students support concerns. A lot happens in the week between terms that would have to take place while a term is in session.

Question: Vice Chair Vidya asked for confirmation that these calendar changes are only related to spring break and not summer terms.

Answer: That is correct. This motion is related to spring break calendar adjustments only.

A COLA senator asked why if the law school is exempt from these spring break changes, UNH-D isn't?

Answer: Because the law school operates on a completely different calendar. GSC is merging with UNH and UNH-M students may take discovery courses through GSC. If the two calendars don't match UNH-M and GSC students may not get a spring break.

The senator went on to ask if there will be changes to breaks related to Thanksgiving?

Answer: There is already an existing break between term 1 and term 2 so there is not the need to offer this calendar alignment. This break is unrelated to Thanksgiving.

The senator went on to share local Durham residents are less optimistic with regards to the impact of students celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Answer: SVPAA Kate Ziemer shared Chief Dean plans to talk to the town about these changes. She is not clear if this conversation has happened yet.

A CEPS senator asked for clarification around the issue of financial aid and federal compliance.

Answer: SVPAA Ziemer shared the issue with financial aid is having terms start at differing times. Currently, this is true with E-Terms. The start of E-terms does not coincide with the start of other undergraduate terms. The university has been able to do on this smaller scale, but once the merger takes place, there will be too many students out of compliance. In addition to the compliance piece, there's the repeated different start dates and stop dates, each triggering several other tasks. This includes financial aid compliance as well as financial distribution, and items like add and drop dates.

The senator asked for further clarity around what students exactly would be impacted should senate vote no on this amendment?

Answer: SVPAA Ziemer answered any student who's registered in term three. This includes both UNH and GSC. This impact would be felt most by masters' students, but it also impacts some undergrad and Paul College students as well as students in the part term programs through the GSC division.

A Paul College senator shared his personal experience in living in what is essentially a student housing community. Students are already creating a ruckus. He felt St. Patrick's Day is a holiday celebrated by many and is not a reason to hold up changes to the calendar. Colleges and universities all across the country manage this issue.

Chair Matt called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with 44 in favor, 8 opposed, 6 abstentions.

Tim Montminy wanted to clarify it was not he who reached out to Sarah Batterson with GSC, but it was Sarah who reached out to him. He thanked Sarah as her comments and points were very helpful.

V. Approval of the October 31, 2022 minutes

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent

VI. New Business

Chair Matt asked if anyone had new business. Seeing none the meeting was adjourned.