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UNH FACULTY SENATE Motion # XXVI – M16 Lift restrictions for online delivery (synchronous and asynchronous) of DLabs

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
Motion # XXVI – M16

Lift restrictions for online delivery (synchronous and asynchronous) of DLabs

- 1. Motion presenter:** Charles Vannette, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee
- 2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion:** 2/21/2022, 3/7/2022 and 3/28/2022

Rationale: The Covid pandemic has familiarized UNH faculty with synchronous and asynchronous course modalities in all disciplines, including D-Lab courses. Many faculty, departments, and programs see value in these modalities in the future and have expressed a desire to lift restrictions on online delivery moving forward. Per Senate regulations, however, D-Labs must return to a face-to-face delivery starting in Fall 2022.

After an extensive review of UNH courses and of available pedagogical materials, the Discovery Committee feels that online delivery of D-Labs has a place within the UNH curriculum. Instructional scaffolding exists for these courses, and this modality can assist UNH with outreach to underserved communities. Furthermore, it helps to prepare UNH for future pivots to online delivery, should the need arise. Discovery feels that there is sound intellectual grounding for these delivery methods.

Members of the Academic Program Committee add that synchronous and asynchronous delivery of courses will allow certain UNH programs to grow and expand, and it can increase our ability to market to students outside of New England. The current restriction on online delivery of certain required courses (D-Labs, Honors, INQ-444, INQ-Labs) is an obstacle to programs which would like to create fully online degrees at the undergraduate level.

Both Discovery and the Academic Program Committee recommend that courses which are reconfigured for non face-to-face delivery are done so in consultation with the Center for Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CEITL), that they follow best-practices for their particular discipline, and that they undergo a recertification process through the Discovery Committee. The recertification process for online Writing Intensive courses provides a model. The Academic Program Committee also recommends clear terminology at UNH regarding online delivery, which differentiates between synchronous and asynchronous delivery models.

- 3. Motion: The Faculty Senate moves to lift moratoria regarding online delivery of Discovery Labs. Discovery Labs designed for online delivery (synchronous or asynchronous) should be designed in consultation with CEITL, must follow best-practices for their particular discipline, and must undergo a certification process through the Discovery Committee, which will evaluate them on their pedagogical merit as Discovery Labs, as well as on their ability to be successfully delivered as a synchronous or asynchronous online course. CEITL and Discovery Committee will report to the Faculty Senate on the progress of the program after three years.**

4. Senate Action: The motion was put to a vote on 3/28/2022. The motion passed with 55 in favor; 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Senate chair's signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Forwarded to the following on 4/12/2022:

President James Dean

Wayne Jones, Provost

Kate Ziemer, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All deans and associate deans

All department chairs