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3-7-2022

### UNH FACULTY SENATE Motion # XXVI – M14 Lift restrictions for online delivery (synchronous and asynchronous) of Honors Courses

Faculty Senate

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**UNH FACULTY SENATE**  
**Motion # XXVI – M14**

**Lift restrictions for online delivery (synchronous and asynchronous) of Honors Courses**

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

3. **Rationale:** The Covid pandemic has familiarized UNH faculty with synchronous and asynchronous course modalities in all disciplines, including Honors 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, Honors courses must return to a face-to-face delivery starting in Fall 2022.

After a review of Honors courses delivered online during the Covid pandemic, the Honors Program feels that synchronous and asynchronous online delivery has a place within the Honors curriculum at UNH. The Honors director feels that online delivery can assist Honors in servicing the needs of diverse populations. In particular, online delivery can allow Honors to reach out to students currently enrolled at community colleges and help prepare and transition them into the Honors curriculum at UNH. Additionally, Honors feels that online delivery, particularly during the summer semester, will allow students in highly-structured majors to more easily pursue an Honors degree at UNH.

The Academic Program Committee recommends that Honors 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. Similarly, Honors-designated courses to be delivered online should likewise be designed in consultation with CEITL and should follow best-practices for their particular discipline.

The Academic Program Committee also recommends clear terminology at UNH regarding online delivery, which differentiates between synchronous and asynchronous delivery models.

4. **Motion:** The Faculty Senate moves to lift moratoria regarding online delivery of Honors courses. Honors courses 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 Honors courses, as well as on their ability to be successfully delivered as a synchronous or asynchronous online course.

**5. Senate Action:** The motion was put to a vote on 3/07/2022. The motion passed with 61 in favor; none opposed and 1 abstention.

**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 4/6/2022:

President James Dean

Wayne Jones, Provost

Kate Ziemer, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All deans and associate deans

All department chairs