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2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - March 6, 2023 Minutes Summary

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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 March 6, 2023 via ZOOM

MINUTES SUMMARY

Roll: The following senators were absent: Wainwright, Burdin, Krasner, McKinsey, Karaivanova, Innis, and Drisko Zago. Guests were SVPAA Kate Ziemer, Catherine Peebles, Sarah Batterson, Ellen Fitzpatrick, Emily Dennison and Christian Lipovsky.

I. Discussion and Vote on Agenda Committee Motion re: the Formation of the 2023 Discovery Committee

Faculty Senate Chair Matthew MacManes opened the meeting by sharing the agenda would be different today. Specifically, the meeting will not begin with Provost Jones. This is because Faculty Senate ended the last full senate meeting in the middle of a discussion regarding the formation of a committee related to re-imagining the Discovery Program, which was still on the floor. *Robert's Rules of Order* dictate that Faculty Senate begin today's meeting where the last meeting ended. Matt then recognized Vice Chair Vidya Sundar and Agenda Committee member Andrew Seal to open the discussion related to the motion pending on the floor.

Andrew shared the motion on the floor was introduced at the last Faculty Senate meeting. This motion is to approve of the formation of an ad hoc committee to reimagine the Discovery Program. The committee will begin this year and work into next year. Included in the committee's work will be a review of the work and recommendations of the previous two committees [Discovery Review Committee (DRC) and General Education Review Committee (GERC)]. A subsequent motion will look at the composition of the newly formed discovery committee.

Agenda Committee member Jeff Halpern who last year served as the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee looked to provide insight into the new budget model and RAM. Jeff suggested in addition to figuring out curriculum, a possible charge to the new discovery committee could be to review the budgetary impacts of said curriculum in real time as the RAM model is being formed. Working this way represents an opportunity to inform the provost's office and influence the budgetary implications of a new discovery curriculum. Because RAM is still under development and the new curriculum is yet to be developed, we don't yet know what the budgetary implications will be.

Andrew then spoke to the urgency behind the work of this new discovery committee. He referenced an email that Matt had shared with the full senate earlier in the day. The email contained a resolution from Student Senate stating frustration with Faculty Senate's lack of action on this issue. Students feel that Faculty Senate has lost a number of opportunities to improve the general education program and are deeply dissatisfied with its current status. Andrew then referenced the current lack of flexibility for students in meeting their discovery requirements.

A COLA Senator shared she felt it important to not minimize the work of the previous committees. Their recommendations were founded on the need to be responsible in finding a workable alternative to the

current Discovery Program. She continued that she appreciated the comments related to the budgetary concerns, but what about other concerns? Does Faculty Senate currently have enough information to put forth workable and appropriate discovery revisions?

Andrew responded it was not his intention to place blame on the previous committees, but rather to highlight a failure of the full Faculty Senate to get behind changes to discovery.

A COLSA senator who was a member of the GERC agreed. He noted that the GERC's role was to review the recommendations of the Discovery Review Committee (DRC) and to determine if modifications to the DRC recommendations were feasible. The GERC report states that they did not feel there was adequate support in Faculty Senate to move forward with modifying the proposed changes to the Discovery Program. This senator said his hope was the new discovery committee being proposed today will take a fresh approach to reimaging discovery and not spend time trying to work within the DRC and GERC recommendations. The hope is a fresh start will garner the needed support from Faculty Senate.

This same senator reinforced the work of the GERC was to review the recommendations of the DRC.

Vice Chair Vidya shared she wanted to reiterate that the motion on the floor is not requesting a review of previous proposals, nor does the motion prohibit a review, but rather is asking that a committee be formed to review the discovery curriculum and commit to a modification. How this is done is up to the committee. Vidya referenced the Student Senate Resolution and acknowledged her appreciation of both the DRC and GERC. She felt the time was right to take on the hard work of modifying the current Discovery Program.

A CEPS senator felt the time had come for Faculty Senate to vote on this motion. Though he did want to allow for those with raised hands to speak, he felt once they had spoken, Faculty Senate should vote on the motion.

Jim Connell Faculty Senate historian and parliamentarian offered clarity on previous work with regards to discovery. Jim referenced three different committees [The five-year review, the DRC and the GERC] with the final committee, the GERC looking at how to move forward with the recommendations from the DRC which looked at implementing changes after 10 years.

GERC Chair and guest Ellen Fitzpatrick was recognized. Ellen too reiterated that the role of the GERC was to review what the previous discovery committee did and whether those recommendations could somehow be modified, reformed, and re-introduced to the faculty. Ellen then went on to offer two thoughts. The first, overhauling discovery will be a laborious and lengthy process. Secondly, managing the resistance from the colleges as well as those faculty with a vested interest in discovery going one way or another is not to be underestimated. There is a sense among the colleges that what benefits one, causes damage to another. Ellen reminded the group that the GERC report suggested that Faculty Senate receive motions now from the current Discovery Committee [Permanent Committee of Faculty Senate] that would address the more immediate changes needed to the program. Changes that could address the concerns of the students.

A COLSA senator called the question. He was seconded by a COLA senator. Matt clarified with the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian if the voted needed to close debate was a simple majority or a two-thirds vote. Jim answered two-thirds is required. The vote on the previous question to close debate passed by 56 in the affirmative, 1 in opposition and 3 abstentions.

Matt then called for the vote on the motion titled:

Development of a new Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee to Reimagine Discovery/General Education Curriculum at UNH.

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.

Motion: The Faculty Senate instructs the Agenda Committee to form an ad hoc committee to review and revamp UNH's Discovery/general education curriculum.

The motion passed with 54 in the affirmative, 0 in opposition and 4 abstentions.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2022; February 6, 2023; February 20, 2023 and Minutes as Amended from May 9, 2022; November 14, 2022

- December 12, 2022 – minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- February 6, 2023 – the minutes as amended were approved by unanimous consent.
- February 20, 2023 – the minutes as amended were approved by unanimous consent.
- May 9, 2023 – the minutes were amended after adoption and were passed by unanimous consent.
- November 14, 2023 – the minutes were amended after adoption and were passed by unanimous consent.

III. Committee Updates

- Student Affairs Committee: Co-Chair Kathy Winans reported the committee has been looking at a few things.
 - Kathy reported the committee has been reviewing the Knack tutoring program including the structure of the program and the oversight or lack thereof. There has been discussion about the lack of faculty involvement.
 - The group has discussed early alert emails that are sent to students. The language used is causing alarm and stress for some students. Committee member Catherine Moran shared that this discussion also included concerns surrounding the language in the SED [suspensions, exclusions and dismissal] notifications. The committee will be talking to some of the Associate Deans to communicate concerns regarding the specific language that's used with students. The committee is noting the language rubs up against the idea of being inclusive, welcoming, and focusing on student success. Conversely, the language used may be provoking a sense of agitation and fear among students.
- Research and Public Service Committee Chair Gregg Moore reported
 - The committee is continuing its work to solicit responses and feedback on perceived challenges to maintaining R1 status. The committee has done this through communications within departments. This effort is ongoing with outreach to all faculty categories.
 - In addition, the committee is following up on RPSC motions passed during the last senate session related to engaged scholarship and DEIA in promotion and tenure guidelines.
 - The committee is exploring ways to engage undergraduates in research which dovetails with
 - A research presence in promoting UNH and to area high schools.

- Library Committee Chair Kathrine Aydelott shared the library committee's charge for the year has been to work with the Agenda Committee to consider changes to the mission statement and/or the Library Committee structure in order to enhance communication and transparency with regard to the work of the library. The Agenda Committee is considering several proposals that have been put forward by the Library Committee.
- Information Technology Committee Chair Julee Holcombe shared:
 - Today faculty and staff should have received an email from ETS announcing the pilot portal system. Committee member Jen Chadbourne worked with ETS on the beta testing and roll out of the new portal system. The committee recommends having Alicia Medros from ETS come to a full Faculty Senate meeting to offer a five minute presentation of the new system followed by a five minute Q and A. Julee encouraged everyone to browse the portal and provide feedback. ETS will continue to improve the portal based on feedback.
 - The committee has worked closely with Student Accessibility Services around their new system *Accommodate*. This replaced Clockwork. The committee has worked with SAS on the new system to tweak it, making it more faculty friendly.
 - The committee has had conversation regarding a risk assessment of TikTok and hopes to bring this issue up at the next senate meeting. These conversations were born out of Governor Sununu banning the app on all state devices and networks.

Vidya asked Julee to briefly describe the purpose of the new portal. Julee responded the new portal will provide a one-stop shop of campus resources available to all UNH students, faculty, and staff. The portal will be available via a browser or mobile device and has information on key campus resources, account info, upcoming events, important deadlines and more.

A question was asked if the portal will include information regarding research portfolios. Julee answered Jen Chadbourne would be the person who could best answer that question. Senator Chadbourne was not at the meeting, but Julee was sending Senator Chadbourne the question.

A request was made that the link to the portal be included in the minutes. <https://my.unh.edu/> Here is the [link](#).

- Finance and Administration Committee Chair Roger Ford shared the FAC's role is to keep up with the financial and administrative side of the university.
 - On the finance side this includes looking at the university's financial performance coming out of the pandemic and the new budget dashboard the provost's office has rolled out. This also includes looking at the new RAM as well as the financial implications of the UNH-M/GSC merger.
 - On the administrative side the committee charges include monitoring the head counts of faculty in different classifications, and the headcounts of administrative roles. The committee reviews the university's marketing and advancement efforts. Roger is meeting with human resources around securing faculty input before rolling out major initiatives. An example being the rollout of Kronos and the subsequent headaches that ensued.
 - The committee now meets annually with HR, the CFO, the head of advancement, the head of marketing and the provost to ensure faculty input.

The question was asked if the FAC received a head count and FTE count of faculty at P30? Roger answered that information is available on the provost's dashboard. The committee will be meeting with the CFO at its next meeting and plans to ask him why the provost's dashboard shows a substantial expansion over the past year in the administration headcount.

- Campus Planning Committee Chair Jim Malley shared he thinks of the CPC as a liaison between senate and a number of campus committees with whom they engage. The CPC engages with 7 facilities committees and the campus planning stewardship committees. Two committees that are always active are the Energy Taskforce and the Transportation Policy Committee. The group has also been engaged with reviewing space allocation.
 - In April the committee is planning to bring a few motions forward to Faculty Senate. One growing out of the Energy Task Force and looking to Faculty Senate to discourage investments in fossil fuels and other entities that contribute to climate change. Another is related to graduate student housing and looking for expanded transportation opportunities into communities with more affordable housing, Somersworth for example.

A CEPS senator raised the issue that when there are curtailed or delayed operations the buses do not start running until the university opens which ensures students who rely on the buses can't get to their classes on time. Jim Malley said he would take this to the Transportation Committee for more information.

- Academic Affairs Committee Chair Sara Robinson shared the committee has been looking at couple of charges this semester.
 - The committee's work has included looking at the new Student Experiences of Learning survey including the redaction process. How is this information being utilized. The intent is to gather information for future recommendations.
 - In addition, the committee is looking at the enrollment charge, including the test optional admissions policy, J-Term courses, and online enrollments. The committee will be meeting with the Vice Provost of Enrollment Management to gather additional information.

By the end of the semester, the committee will be reporting to the full senate on both of these issues.

- Academic Programs Committee Chair Amy Ramage shared this year the committee has predominantly been focused on work brought to them by SVPAAs Kate Ziemer. Primarily this work has focused on their charge related to the UNH-M/GSC merger, including:
 - Calendars
 - Pass fail policies
 - Minors and Majors
 - Concentrations
 - Independent Learning Agreements

The committee looked at the above issues to determine where UNH-M and GSC differed and/or those entities that were similar enough for GSC to adopt the UNH policies. After a review of decisions that come out of merger committees, the APC made their own recommendations to SVPAAs Ziemer. Most often in agreement with the previous committee work.

- The committee looked at a charge related to student retention, in particular at a motion that was passed right before COVID, allowing first-term students the ability to change up to four credits of their first term to pass fail. This motion included several restrictions to the policy. The committee is seeking insight from faculty and the registrar's office to see how this policy was used. How many students used that option? What's the success of the policy? The committee plans to bring back more information on this motion later in the semester.

- Lastly, the committee would like to work on issues related to student retention and the accessibility of the student supports.

A CEPS senator sought clarity on the pass/fail motion Amy referenced. She clarified that the motion she was discussing was only related to first-term students and the pass/fail option could be operationalized up to the 10th Friday of the semester [Motion XXIV-M5].

The same senator asked about how administration will respond if there is programmatic overlap between UNH and the CPS such that UNH will need to sunset majors because for financial reasons students opt to take the courses through CPS. SVPAA Kate Ziemer was invited to speak to this question. She shared that faculty across UNH-M, GSC and UNH-D reviewed programs and majors and determined there were not overlaps in the programs. There could be overlap on an individual course, but not programs. Kate reiterated students at UNH-M can register for courses at GSC [both entities soon to be called the College of Professional Studies], but students at UNH-D will not be able to register for online classes through CPS without formal permission from their advisor and the Dean of the College. The number of petitions for UNH-D students to take online courses through the CPS will be tracked.

III. Comments by and questions for the chair

Matt thanked the committee chairs for their updates. In addition, he wanted to share a few items.

- The Honors College Survey – The platform used to distribute the survey allowed Faculty Senate to reach all faculty at both UNH-D and UNH-M. Prior to the distribution of this survey, there was no mechanism for senate to speak directly to the full faculty. As of this morning, 17 faculty have completed the survey with all colleges represented. Matt asked senators to encourage interested faculty to fill out the survey.

The question was asked as to whether the Faculty Senate Weekly Newsletter might now be distributed using the new distribution platform. Matt replied no decision has been made on this, but it is certainly worth exploring, particularly when the newsletter has particularly pertinent or important information.

- Campus Safety – Matt shared he has heard from faculty and students alike with regards to issues of safety on campus. Folks are on edge. There has been talk within the Agenda Committee of inviting Chief Dean to address either a senate committee or the full senate on what types of initiatives are in place with regards to safety. Responding to a question, Matt shared there have been faculty here at UNH who have been threatened. This coupled with the many mass shootings across the country this year has left the UNH campus community on edge.

Matt noted there was a message posted to the chat noting there have been 95 massive shooting so far this year.

IV. Motion to Endorse the 2023 Discovery Committee Membership and Committee Framework

Vice Chair Vidya presented a motion to define the parameters for the Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee. This motion is a follow-up to the previously passed motion to establish the committee. This motion describes the membership of the Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee. Curriculum is within the domain of faculty and the membership of this committee will be primarily faculty but will include student voice and also one administrator.

Vidya went on to share the reason why the Agenda Committee is recommending the committee include students and administrators as voting members is because they can provide valuable information about the logistics. This is especially true with an administrator who can provide valuable information about

implementation, logistics, and the feasibility of realizing the discovery curriculum framework that may be developed. One of the criticisms or shortcomings of previous discovery committees was that some components were not feasible for implemented in the short term. The Agenda Committee is trying to anticipate such issues by including an administrator on the committee.

Vidya continued by outlining the core voting members to include 6 faculty (one from each college) 2 students and one administrator. There will also be non-voting members who bring needed content knowledge to the committee's work. Vidya reviewed the list.

The group was reminded that the 6 faculty members on the core group will be compensated for their time. Compensation could be in the form of summer compensation, or during next academic year, compensation might include an adjustment to course or service assignments.

The floor was opened to questions.

A COLA senator raised the point the existing Discovery Committee, which is a permanent committee of Faculty Senate has two COLA senators. Would it make sense to have 2 COLA representatives on this committee as well?

Vidya answered in developing the motion, the Agenda Committee felt that discovery and general education programs serve all students in all colleges, and though there might be some differences in terms of the number of faculty or courses offered by different colleges, the bottom line is this curriculum should serve all students. Students should be thought of as one unit of analysis or focus. One representative from each college equalizes the contribution from each college.

The senator reiterated her concern that there are so many disciplines in COLA that lack similarities. Limiting the college to one representative may limit that faculty member's ability to fully represent the college.

Sarah Batterson with Granite State College was recognized by the chair. Sarah shared that she appreciated the GSC division of the College of Professional Studies being listed as an ex-officio member of the committee but would appreciate if that position could be changed to a voting member.

Vidya responded the reason why the member from the online division, or GSC specifically is an ad hoc member, is because each college has one representative. In this case, that would be the College of Professional Studies. The faculty member from CPS could in theory be someone from UNH Manchester or GSC. Should the CPS faculty member be from the UNH-M division, the committee will ensure the online division has a voice as an ad hoc member.

A COLSA senator shared he appreciated the Agenda Committee's intent at equalizing the colleges by having one representative from each. Yet, at the same time he appreciated the point that COLA represents multiple disciplines. Perhaps the committee composition should be changed such that there are two representatives from each college.

Vidya shared the Agenda Committee had considered this but was concerned about sitting two ad hoc committees simultaneously. In addition, there was concern that having two representatives from each college might create a committee that is too large.

A question was asked if the students and administrators represented in the core committee might have other avenues for voting such that their votes are counted twice?

Vidya shared that within this committee there is one core group and only the core group would vote. Students might participate in other committees or on Student Senate where they may vote to pass

resolutions, but with regards to this Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee, core members have one vote each. In addition, the committee's job is to make recommendations which will then be voted on by Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate has the ultimate decision/vote. Members of Faculty Senate are the only university body voting on the discovery committee recommendations.

Vidya noted that Christian Lipovsky, Chair of the Student Academic Affairs Committee posted in the chat and asked that the wording around student participation in the committee be tightened up to better define their representation.

Matt acknowledged and thanked Christian for this suggestion.

V. Resolution of Support for those who suffer from recent earthquakes

The resolution of support was brought to Faculty Senate by Senator Will Smiley from the Classics, Humanities, and Italian Studies Department. Will shared he understands members of Faculty Senate are aware there was an earthquake on February 6th centered in southwestern Turkey and northern Syria, which has caused horrific devastation. The death toll is currently approaching 50,000. There has been an effort by faculty in Middle East Studies around the country to encourage universities to issue statements of support for those who are suffering. NYU issued an exemplary statement calling on the community to support those affected, especially those in our university communities who might be faculty, graduate students or undergraduates. Support also includes encouraging people in the community to contribute financially if they are able and interested.

Will made a motion to suspend the rules allowing for Faculty Senate to vote on the motion today. The motion was seconded. The motion to suspend the rules was passed by unanimous consent.

Matt opened the floor to questions.

A CHHS senator reminded the group that when senate considered the previous resolution on Ukraine it was determined that a group be convened to determine how to move forward on resolutions such as this. The idea being to put in place some criteria to guide senate. The senator offered to be a part of that group.

It was suggested that if Faculty Senate is going to encourage contributions to a cause, there should be a vetted channel for doing so. Will included a link in the chat that was used by NYU, but appreciated the concerns that links be vetted for legitimacy.

A COLA senator asked for clarity on what is meant by "support". Is there a coordinated effort here at the university? Will shared there is not a fund and he welcomed tweaking the language. No changes to the language were suggested.

Matt called the vote.

Resolution of support for all who suffer from the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

BE IT RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate of the University of New Hampshire extends its sympathies to all those who have suffered, and who continue to suffer, in the aftermath of the recent devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey; We stand ready to support all those students, faculty, and staff who have been affected by the tragedy; Furthermore, we encourage members of the university community to consider contributing financially to organizations engaged in relief efforts.

The resolution passed with 44 in the affirmative, 0 in opposition and 6 abstentions

The meeting was adjourned.