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### 2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - March 27, 2023 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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#### Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - March 27, 2023 Minutes Summary" (2023). *Faculty Senate Agendas & Minutes*. 29.

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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 27, 2023 via ZOOM

MINUTES SUMMARY

**Roll:** The following senators were absent: Burdin (on leave), Krasner, McKinsey, Innis, Caron and Mohr. Guests were SVPAA Kate Ziemer, Catherine Peebles, Karen White, Emily Dennison and Christian Lipovsky.

**I. Comments by and questions to Provost Wayne Jones**

Budget Update:

- The NH House of Representatives has included the UNH budget request in House Bill 2. This bill is not yet approved, but having numbers on paper is the first step.
- P2 projection is done. Marcel [Vernon] met with the Finance and Administration Committee last week. Wayne reminded the group that monthly budget updates can be found at the top of the provost's website. These updates include staff and faculty numbers. The BOT has accepted the new budget practice of separating grants and gifts out of the margin. If looking at the recurring budget, which is where the margin is held, what is found is that undergraduate net tuition is up due to first-time freshmen and financial aid, but graduate is down a bit. Auxiliary services are way up, grants are way up, allowing for revenue to hold, but expenses are higher than expected. This is due in part to raises, but also inflation. There is a \$3.7 million budget deficit. Wayne shared the deans have been asked, where possible, to hold back new hires until July 1 and perhaps use gift funds rather than daily operating costs when possible.
- New Staff Hires: Over the past year, there has been a jump in new staff by about 130. This is related to several factors including ET and S and Shared Services. These are items that were at the system office, but 90% of the work occurs at UNH. These positions were moved to the UNH budget on the revenue side. This change did not hurt UNH financially but does account for the biggest chunk of that 130 increase. In addition, some GSC staff are now showing up under UNH staff. After the July 1 merger there will be an additional jump.
- Ten Year Capital Planning Process: Every ten years the university does an analysis of the whole campus looking at how many square feet do we have of different types of spaces, including office spaces and other spaces. Do we need new buildings? In the past, this analysis involved hiring boots on the ground to walk throughout campus at different times of the day to determine how space is being used. This year, Ken Weston said he can use software to monitor online connectivity and thus determine the frequency of use with regards to space. This frequency is simply a data-flow monitor, and will not capture IP addresses.

Questions for Provost Jones.

**Question:** A Paul College senator asked if there are departments that are mainly kept afloat due to the funds generated via discovery courses and were discovery to change, could this pose a real problem for some departments?

**Answer:** Provost Jones said he did not think any department at UNH is here only because of discovery. UNH has a breadth of curriculum with 215 majors. Departments are here because they are part of being a robust R1 institution. One of the reasons the new budget model is being built with a decrease in the weighting of credit hours is because credit hours are not the only reason that tuition flows. In addition, every department contributes to student success, graduation rates, first-year retention rates, and creating high-impact learning opportunities for UNH students.

**Question:** A COLSA senator asked if faculty positions are purposely being changed in the new budget model. She then went on to reference information provided in the FAC meeting.

**Answer:** Provost Jones knew what she was referring to and explained at UNH there are 6 different faculty types. Some types, particularly clinical faculty, have grown in recent years but are not coded in the system as “clinical” but rather as “other”. This is true with some Extension faculty as well. A new classification will soon be added called “Online [Professional] Faculty”. Provost Jones is collecting the data related to the total revenue generated by all faculty types over the past 5 years. By breaking it down, trends can be captured. The data showed 220 faculty have been hired in the past 5 years. This data can show hiring trends. Provost Jones will bring charts related to this data to an upcoming the Faculty Senate meeting.

**Question:** A COLA proxy-senator revisited the question related to discovery and shared for many departments in COLA, discovery seats account for anywhere from half to three-quarters of the students they teach in a given year. Were discovery categories to change, and students no longer have to take courses in those categories that departments depend on, what might happen should a department that loses 75% of the seats that are taught because a particular discovery category was removed from that department?

**Answer:** This question assumes an underlying hypothesis that students won’t take these courses unless doing so to meet discovery requirements. Wayne used the Classics [Humanities, and Italian Studies] department as an example saying he is not convinced this department only exists for the purposes of fulfilling discovery. Wayne went on to say, he can’t imagine a flagship R1 research university, not having a philosophy department or art. If this were at a small four-year college, those things might be under a serious challenge, but here at UNH they are critical. Wayne continued to say, engineering students should not graduate without taking a humanities or language course, and by the same token, no student studying the classics should graduate without a math class, for example. He does not think enrollment in current discovery courses would drop by 75%.

Another proxy-senator from COLA shared though he appreciates the Provost’s confidence, Vermont has recently gone through a similar process and majors did go away because students won’t take these classes unless pushed there to meet requirements. Provost Jones shared he is aware of what is happening in Vermont and is glad the Faculty Senate is discussing these issues.

Provost Jones left the meeting.

## **II. Approval of the March 6 Faculty Senate Minutes**

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## **III. Comments by and questions to the chair**

- Matt offered the floor to Emily Dennison [Student Body President] and Christian Lipovsky [Chair, Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate] for an update. Christian shared last night was the Student Senate's first meeting following spring break. When Christian made the announcement that Faculty Senate had passed a motion to establish a 2023 Discovery Committee the room filled with applause from the 60 members of Student Senate. Christian went on to say he would personally like to thank Faculty Senate for their support regarding this committee. However, he wanted to emphasize that in determining committee membership, students want to be a part of the group. Christian then went on to invite all members of Faculty Senate to a Student Senate mixer in the MUB on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Halpern shared with the students that April 6 is Passover noting again the need for a DEI inclusive calendar.
- Honors College Selection Survey: The survey had a great response rate with 36 faculty being either self-nominated or nominated by a colleague. Matt and Vidya will work with the Agenda Committee to identify potential participants.
- Faculty Senate Elections: Ballots have been sent and currently have a 50% response rate. Amanda will be resending the ballots to all departments. The ballots will be closed on Friday.
- Banner Downtime: Banner will be down beginning 4/16-19. As a result, several websites including WebCat will be unavailable. Information will be forthcoming on this downtime.
- Campus Safety Town Hall: The recordings of the Safety Town Halls are available online. A big take away from the Town Hall is that Chief Dean will come to individual departments to discuss the more specific aspects of campus safety.

#### **IV. Discussion and Vote on Discovery Committee Membership**

Vidya reminded the group that the current motion is to constitute a new discovery committee with one representative from each undergraduate serving college.

Matt recognized a COLA proxy-senator. The senator proposed an amendment to the motion. He shared a number of COLA faculty had been discussing this motion over the past week and agreed they would like to present a motion to alter the composition of this committee to reflect the arts, humanities, and science, with social science subsumed within the science focus of the discovery program. This proposed amendment would change the composition of the proposed committee composition from 6 to 10 faculty members with 3 representatives from COLA, and 2 from both COLSA and CEPS as these are the colleges that provide the majority of Discovery courses. In addition, faculty in these colleges are those most likely to be impacted by changes to the discover program.

The motion was seconded by another COLA senator. This same COLA senator reminded the group that following the discussion regarding the Discovery Committee composition at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the Agenda Committee was going to take comments and concerns back to their group and discuss. What was the outcome of these conversations? Were changes contemplated? If so, how did you arrive at where the motion is today?

Vice Chair Vidya Sundar shared that yes, the Agenda Committee did discuss the concerns raised at the last senate meeting. In the end the group felt that the beneficiary of these changes are the students.

Keeping that in mind, all colleges have a responsibility toward the students and all colleges should be equally represented in making changes to the program.

Vidya then addressed a question from a guest attending on behalf of Granite State College. The question related to committee make-up and would GSC have a voice? Vidya shared the committee includes a rep from the soon to be established College of Professional Studies which includes GSC.

A senator from the Library asked if the Library shouldn't have a representative on the committee? The library is typically represented on such committees and offered a friendly amendment that the Library be included on the committee. The senator offering the amendment was asked if he would accept a friendly amendment to add the Library to faculty make up on the 2023 Discovery Committee. The answer was yes and the Library was added.

A COLA senator asked why limit faculty on the committee? The previous answer given made it seem as though expanding the committee somehow does a disservice to students. In fact, Faculty Senate itself recognizes multiple departments and the diversity of faculty.

Vidya responded Faculty Senate is where final decisions will be made. The committee is charged with bringing ideas, suggestions, etc to the full senate for final decisions. In addition, if this committee really is to rethink and re-imagine the discovery program, having an equal voice ensures change. Using the same formula may just deliver the same results, patterns or thinking.

Conversation continued around what faculty and colleges deliver the bulk of gen ed courses and how many faculty from each college should be on the committee. A PAUL senator shared his offense to the suggestion that faculty from the business school and other college can't think in broad terms and thus can't partake in providing gen ed courses. This same senator looked at a breakdown in what departments are offering discovery courses and based on his research the burden of providing these courses does not fall on departments within COLA but in fact are spread across colleges. A COLSA senator suggested adding additional faculty in equal numbers from every college to the committee.

Matt shared with the group what separates this effort at re-working discovery from the others is that he and Vidya have been successful in working with administration to secure financial support for the work to include summer salary, course releases and service load modifications. However, these dollars are finite. Though Matt appreciates and understands the desire to represent diversity within the colleges, increasing committee membership may in turn decrease the financial support of each committee member.

A COLSA senator asked for clarification on what it is the students want in a re-imagined the Discovery Program. Matt recognized Christian Lipovsky with Student Senate. Christian shared the students really liked the proposal that was offered a few years ago but would like the program to be more reflective of today's post COVID world. In addition, he continued to share when students discuss this issue in their Student Senate meetings, their conversation is inclusive. Students don't focus so much on what colleges they are enrolled in but rather re-imagining discovery as simply a student issue. He encouraged faculty to think the same. This is a faculty issue, not a college issue. Faculty should be represented as a whole, and not divided.

Conversation continued around a variety of points including group dynamics and the need for participants to feel heard, what constitutes an education, how some major's leave little room for discovery courses and what makes up a college. The point was raised that the current motion on the floor is too reflective of the

curriculum already in place. This amendment to the motion doesn't represent a re-imagining. There was a suggestion that to better understand student interests perhaps look at student enrollment in majors across the university. Should committee representation be based on majors rather than colleges? Perhaps this isn't the right direction either. Thus equal representation by all colleges feels the most equitable. Again, senators were asked to consider how changes in the gen ed program could impact faculty across those colleges currently providing the bulk of discovery courses. Conversation continues with senators sharing why they did or did not think the committee should include equal representation across the colleges.

A COLA senator summarized both the discussion to this point, as well as comments in the chat, by saying regardless of the amendment on the floor, the proposed committee structure is too limited and requires a bigger variety of faculty with bigger broader views and more creative thinking. She went on to share she would vote for any amendment that expanded the number of faculty on the committee. Senate should not willingly agree to cede its collective authority over the curriculum just to keep the numbers down. This senator went on to say, she strongly encourages the agenda committee to simply increase the number of faculty who can bring their good ideas and varied perspectives that their disciplines provide to the table.

Matt called for a vote on the amendment to the motion.

#### **Amendment to the Motion regarding Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee Membership**

**Whereas the faculty and departments in the College of Liberal Arts have the greatest responsibility on a per capita basis for delivering Discovery courses in the university, and are also most dependent upon the teaching of Discovery courses, in some cases for their very survival, I move to amend the proposed composition of the committee charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the Discovery program to reflect the centrality of the Arts, Humanities, and Sciences to a broad, general education program, that is separate from and as important to the education of our students as training in a major and/or pre-professional training. To this end, I propose that the faculty composition of the new committee consist of 3 members from COLA, 2 members each from COLSA and CEPS, and 1 member each from HHS, Library, Paul, and Manchester, and that composition of the remainder of the committee, e.g. administrators, remain as it was in the original proposal.**

The amendment failed with 27 in favor, 28 opposed and 5 abstentions.

With the original motion back on the floor, Jeff Halpern, a member of the Agenda Committee offered a friendly amendment to add the Library to the list of the colleges represented on the committee. The friendly amendment was accepted.

A CEPS senator proposed a friendly amendment that would have the committee hold a town hall where faculty outside of the committee can contribute ideas. Both Matt and Vidya agreed but thought this would be best a charge to the committee rather than pertaining to committee make-up.

A Paul senator offered a friendly amendment to have 2 faculty members from each college. Having more voices allows for all members of Faculty Senate to be interviewed to provide their thoughts.

A senator called for a Point of Order and asked if the friendly amendment was to the motion currently on the floor. The amendment would add an additional faculty member to all colleges for a total of 2 per college. The Paul College senator answered yes. This is her proposed amendment. The motion was seconded. Matt reiterated that the resources to support the committee are finite.

A COLA senator offered another friendly amendment suggesting that rather than nearly doubling the size of the committee, she suggested adding 3 at-large members. The Paul senator said her intent is to enlarge the committee and make it equitable. Her fear is how those at-large members would be identified and that the selection of 3 at-large members could result in alienating or angering others. This same senator went on to say, we need to populate the committee such that senate and the university as a whole doesn't go through this process again, only to have it voted down. What will it take to ensure it passes? With 14 faculty there are more people who can go out and interview and touch base with every single faculty senator if necessary, or to visit their faculty meetings. There will be more opportunities to connect with people. Doing this allows the committee to understand what objections are out there before the vote is taken.

The same Paul senator went on to say, "I'm happy to make my amendment whatever you think is going to get passed and I really don't want perceived inequity to get in the way of the final passage." To which the COLA senator said, "Fair enough. I withdraw my friendly amendment to your friendly amendment." She suggested waiting to see what would happen with an end goal of getting a super majority passage of committee composition.

This same COLA senator went on to say she thinks part of re-envisioning discovery is to completely re-envision the kinds of courses that we offer in discovery. This will require a lot of people on the ground with really creative curriculum and pedagogical ideas to really rethink what a discovery course might look like to address the kinds of challenges that Christian and his colleagues are very rightly concerned about being prepared for.

Another COLA senator suggested adding one student from each college as well. The Paul senator asked that this be added to her amendment.

Jim Connell shared with only two minutes left to the meeting, he was making a motion to postpone further discussion on this friendly amendment until the next Faculty Senate meeting. Vidya offered a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Matt called for a vote to postpone the discussion on this amendment until the next meeting. The motion to postpone passed by 51 votes, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

## **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.