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2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - Special Session April 17, 2023 Minutes Summary

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Recommended Citation

Faculty Senate, "2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - Special Session April 17, 2023 Minutes Summary" (2023). *Faculty Senate Agendas & Minutes*. 33.

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII

Special Session

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 4:00 PM on April 17, 2023 via ZOOM

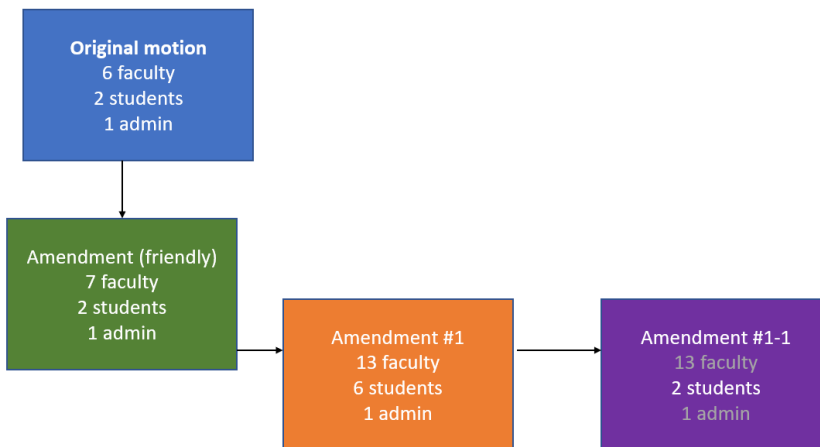
MINUTES SUMMARY

Roll: The following senators were absent: Conroy, Magnusson, Kim, Came, Mohr, McKinsey, Krasner, Innis, Kazura, Stocz, and Lemos. Guests included C.C. Hendricks, Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, Catherine Peebles, Emily Dennison and Christian Lipovsky

I. Ad Hoc 2023 Discovery Committee Membership

Chair Matthew MacManes opened the meeting by sharing that the purpose of today is to discuss and vote on some aspects of the motion regarding the 2023 Discovery Committee membership. Matt turned the floor over to Vice Chair Vidya Sundar who had a flow chart to share with regards to today’s discussion and vote. Before sharing the PowerPoint slide, Vidya asked to recognize Christian and Emily from the Student Senate. Christian read an [open letter](#) to UNH faculty from the Student Senate. The letter had been published on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Vidya then shared a flow chart to explain the amendment to the amendment to the motion.



The flow chart was intended to serve as a recap from the last 3 meetings. Vidya shared Faculty Senate started with the original motion about membership, which called for *six faculty members, one from each undergraduate serving institution, two students, and one admin member* (blue box above). A few weeks ago, there was a friendly amendment made to include a faculty member from the library. This amendment was accepted on the floor and is noted in the green box. At that same meeting, there was a motion introduced by a senator from COLA regarding changes to faculty representation on the committee. That motion failed and is not noted in the flow chart above. Next a motion was offered by a Paul College

senator [Amendment #1] which included *two faculty members from each of the six undergraduate teaching colleges and one faculty member from library bringing the total number of faculty to 13*. Also included in that motion was a friendly amendment *increasing student representation to six and continuing with one member of the administration*. An amendment to the amendment [Amendment #1-1] was moved and is referenced in the purple box. Amendment 1-1 does not change the amendment's faculty nor administration membership but *reduces the number of students on the committee back the original number of two*.

Vidya shared that the conversation today would open with the purple box and if necessary, work backwards in the order shown.

Jim Connell shared with the group, that depending how the group votes on the current amendment to the amendment or the purple box, there will be other opportunities to amend either the orange box, i.e., the original amendment or going back to the blue box i.e., the original motion.

A COLSA senator asked for a timeline related to the work. When can Faculty Senate expect a Discovery Program proposal to come to the senate floor and when is administration expecting the committee to finish its work? The size of the committee may prevent the committee from completing its work in a timely manner.

Matt clarified that as of right now, Faculty Senate is only debating one aspect of the committee's size and that is student representation. However, the timeline for the committees is this summer and all of next academic year.

The Paul College senator who proposed the amendment and the amendment to the amendment thanked the students for their comments. The senator talked about the quality of education expected at an R1 university. Students pay significant sums of money to attend a university with this prestigious distinction and faculty expertise matters. Student input on the committee is important but faculty expertise is more appropriate to designing curriculum. With six students and only 2 faculty from each undergraduate college, students could have an effect on the vote.

Vidya shared with the group that language added to motion outside a senate meeting has been removed. This included the suggested committee name change to the 2023 Discovery *Overhaul* Committee and that one faculty member from each college be a sitting senator.

What Faculty Senate is voting on right now is the amendment to the amendment represented by the purple box in the flow chart. This would result in 13 faculty, 2 students and 1 administrator.

A COLA senator said "it's time to start the process of voting." Faculty Senate keeps circling around the same points and time is running out on this special session. The primary duty of Faculty Senate is to set curriculum and at this point senate runs the risk looking like they can't do that.

The COLA senator asked to call the vote. She was seconded.

Matt called for a vote to end debate on the amendment to the amendment. The vote on the previous question passed with 50 in the affirmative, 5 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Next Matt called for the vote on the amendment to the amendment which included 13 faculty members, 2 students and 1 administrator.

(Amendment 1-1) Students (n=2): Two students from two different colleges, nominated by the Student Senate. Student members may include current undergraduate students or a graduate student who is

recent alumnus of any UNH undergraduate program. Student members should represent the voice of all students not just the college they belong to.

The amendment to the amendment passed with 32 in favor, 22 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Matt opened the discussion related to the amendment that is currently on the floor. This amendment includes increasing the faculty number from 6 to 13.

A CHHS senator proposed an amendment to the amendment asking that of the 13 faculty members, one faculty member from each of the undergraduate serving colleges be a sitting senator. The amendment to the amendment was seconded.

Faculty (n=7)13): ~~One-Two~~ faculty members from each undergraduate-serving college (PCBE, CEPS, CHHS, COLSA, COLA, and CPS) and one faculty member from the Library. Members will be confirmed by Faculty Senate after consultation with the Provost, College Dean, and Department Chair due to workload requirement (*details below in *Member Compensation* section). One member will be appointed as Chair of the Core group by the Agenda Committee.

The paragraph above was amended by adding **“Six faculty members will be sitting senators, one for each undergraduate teaching college.”** This language was inserted after “section)” and before “One member...”

Matt opened the floor to debate regarding the amendment to the amendment.

A COLSA senator asked what’s the rationale behind having one senator from each college being a senator?

Vidya responded in reviewing previous efforts to revise and revamp discovery, Faculty Senate has been the bottleneck. Progress gets stalled and outcomes are not as intended. Having one sitting senator from each college can be a conduit to the committee. They can keep the committee informed and vice versa.

A COLA senator shared his concern that asking a sitting senator to take on the work of this committee in addition to other senate work, might create a workload issue.

Vidya responded she agreed. She and Matt are still working with Provost Jones regarding whether there will be the same course buy-out and summer compensation opportunities for an additional 6 faculty members. This question is still under discussion. There have also been conversations with associate deans.

Another COLA senator pointed out that given Faculty Senate elections have already taken place, requiring six committee members to be members of Faculty Senate will limit the pool of committee candidates. The Senate should not assume sitting senators are the best representatives from the college to do the work of this committee. There should not be an assumption that because faculty sit on senate, they are the most prepared or most interested in doing the work of this committee. In addition, Faculty Senate would not want to give the impression of micromanaging the committee.

Vidya shared that she appreciated that feedback and asked if the senator would like to make a friendly amendment to change the language to read “up to six senators”. This could allow for as few as one and as many as six. This would allow for individual availability and interest.

The conversation continued with regards to the merits of having sitting senators serve on the committee.

With no more raised hands in the queue Matt called for a vote on the amendment to the amendment (highlighted language above).

The amendment to the amendment failed with 6 votes in the affirmative, 47 in opposition, and 0 abstentions.

Chair Matt then opened debate on the amendment to the motion. This amendment suggested amending the number of faculty per undergraduate serving colleges from 1 to 2. Changes noted below in red.

Faculty (n=~~7~~13): ~~One~~ **Two** faculty members from each undergraduate-serving college (PCBE, CEPS, CHHS, COLSA, COLA, and CPS) and one faculty member from the Library. Members will be confirmed by Faculty Senate after consultation with the Provost, College Dean, and Department Chair due to workload requirement (*details below in *Member Compensation* section). One member will be appointed as Chair of the Core group by the Agenda Committee.

No senators engaged in debate and seeing no hands raised, Matt called the vote on the amendment to the motion.

The amendment passed with a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 5 in opposition and 2 abstentions.

Matt opened the senate floor to debate on the full motion. He then recognized Emily and Christian with the Student Senate. Christian shared their disappointment in Faculty Senate for limiting the number of voting students on the committee to two.

Matt called for a vote on the motion.

2023 Ad Hoc Committee on Discovery - Committee Membership Parameters

Rationale: The Faculty Senate acknowledges previous efforts to review and update our current Discovery Curriculum 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:

Faculty Senate endorses the Agenda Committee's plans for the 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery's membership parameters and committee framework.

The 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery

Members of the 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery will be responsible for developing a new framework and curriculum for general education at UNH. The committee will include (1) a core group of members from across the University and (2) an advisory group. The 2023 Committee on Discovery will use a shared governance model to ensure that the proposed general education framework and curriculum provides a broad-based education for all our students. Broadly speaking, the committee will be composed of faculty members, students, and university administrators in both voting and non-voting roles. Committee composition should be representative of gender, ethnicity, career stage, and faculty appointment type.

Core members

The following members will participate as full voting members

- **Faculty (n=13):** Two faculty members from each undergraduate-serving college (PCBE, CEPS, CHHS, COLSA, COLA, and CPS) and one faculty member from the Library. Members will be confirmed by Faculty Senate after consultation with the Provost, College Dean, and Department Chair due to workload requirement (*details below in *Member Compensation* section). One member will be appointed as Chair of the Core group by the Agenda Committee.
- **Students (n=2):** Two students from two different colleges, nominated by the Student Senate. Student members may include current undergraduate students or a graduate student who is recent alumnus of any UNH undergraduate program. Student members should represent the voice of all students not just the college they belong to.
- **University Administrator (n=1):** University administrators are valuable members who can provide institutional context and feedback regarding the implementation of the general education curriculum. One representative from the Academic Standards and Advising Committee (ASAC). The ASAC member will represent the voice of administrators from all colleges.

Ex-officio members

The committee will include the following ex-officio members, in a non-voting role

1. Director of the Discovery Program
2. Chair of the Student Senate (or designee)
3. Faculty member from the online division of CPS (formerly GSC)
4. Chair of Faculty Senate or designee
5. SVPAA
6. Administrative Support Personnel

The ex-officio, non-voting members have an additional responsibility of working closely with and interfacing between the Faculty Senate, members of the senior administration, discovery program staff, students, and the Advisory group (described below). Ex-officio members will participate in all regular meetings of the Core group.

Advisory group for the 2023 ad hoc Committee on Discovery

The 2023 Committee on Discovery will be supported by an advisory group, which will include subject matter experts, stakeholders from within and outside the university, who can contribute to the shaping of the general education curriculum and its future implementation. The advisory group will participate in a kick-off meeting and quarterly meetings to provide feedback to the core members. All advisory group members are non-voting, *ad hoc* members, expected to participate only at key checkpoints.

- **University faculty, administrators, and staff** such as a representative from Career and Professional Success (CAPS), Dean of Students, Registrar or designee, Director of Civil Rights and Equity Office (CREO) or designee, representative from professional advising team, chair of ad hoc committee on Gen. Ed. Diversity requirement, faculty member from Law school, and others, as needed.
- **Alumni**, especially recent undergraduate students, are in a unique position to reflect on their experiences with undergraduate education at UNH and provide feedback on the current Discovery curriculum and ways in which it can be improved. Members may be identified by the Alumni Association.

- **Business Leaders** possess real-world experience that allows them to understand the skills that students need in order to be successful in a competitive world. Members may be identified by CAPS, the President's office, or the Provost's office, in conjunction with Faculty Senate leadership.

Member Compensation:

Faculty members representing their college will be compensated for this work in Summer 2023, when their workload is in-excess of contractually obligated workload assignments. Service and teaching assignments may be reduced for AY 2023-24.

The motion passed with 49 in the affirmative, 9 opposed and 0 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.