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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXVI – M3 Resolution on Faculty Responsibility and Authority Over Course Content, Pedagogy, and Modality

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**UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXVI – M3**

Resolution on Faculty Responsibility and Authority Over Course Content, Pedagogy, and Modality

- 1. Motion presenter:** Catherine Moran, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee
- 2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion:** 05/10/21, 08/30/21
- 3. Motion: The Student Affairs Committee endorses the following resolution put on the table by Andrew Coppens on May 10, 2021:**

WHEREAS, On July 11, 2020 the following excerpt was included in a direct communication sent by Provost Wayne Jones to the University community:

“As we work collectively on plans for the fall and beyond, the modality and balance of course types will remain the responsibility of the deans in collaboration with each other and the provost's office. Individual faculty continue to have flexibility around the content of the course and pedagogy deployed to advance student learning. The modality by which course curriculum is delivered is at the discretion of the university administration, approved by the board and managed by the deans in consultation with chairs.” ;

WHEREAS, The context of this statement was an appropriate need for the University to swiftly coordinate institution-wide shifts in course delivery modalities to allow for the safe continuation of academic activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement introduces unbounded policy distinctions among content, pedagogy, and course modality – with faculty deauthorized from decision-making regarding the latter – that contradict established consensus principles of shared governance and may undermine best practices and faculty expertise in teaching and learning aligned with UNH core values;

WHEREAS, Faculty responsibility, authority, and expertise in course content, pedagogy, and modality have long-standing precedent at UNH;

WHEREAS, Faculty wish to be involved proactively and in primary leadership regarding decisions on course content, pedagogy, and modality and wish to be able to contribute their expertise in designing for synergies across these three areas of the curricula;


WHEREAS, Placing modality decisions solely at the discretion of UNH administration circumvents this expertise and, insofar as course content, pedagogy, and modality are inseparable, threatens an important dimension of faculty expression of academic freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in a sustained “Green” mode of campus operation (as expected for Fall 2021 and beyond), the consensus document included in Senate Motion XIII-M15 (4/20/09) is the authoritative text articulating the “spheres of responsibility and authority” over which UNH faculty and UNH administration have primary leadership. Thus, long-term, faculty continue to have primary responsibility and authority over course content, pedagogy, and modality;

RESOLVED, That faculty are deeply committed to a long-standing value at UNH that prioritizes relatively small-scale, interactive venues for faculty and students to learn together – building relationships among students and faculty in these settings is inextricably linked with building knowledge and deep understanding. Although not every educational experience can be organized as such, the faculty are committed to these kinds of venues for learning as definitional to the UNH experience.

4. Senate Action: The motion was put to a vote on August 30, 2021. The motion passed with 34 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstentions

5. Senate Chair's signature: _____



Kevin Healey

Forwarded to the following on September 30, 2021:

President James Dean

Wayne Jones, Provost

Kate Ziemer, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All deans and associate deans

All department chairs