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### 2022-2023 FACULTY SENATE XXVII - May 8, 2023 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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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 May 8, 2023 via ZOOM

## MINUTES SUMMARY

**Roll:** The following senators were absent: Lahiri, Kim, Came, Mohr, Golinski, Innis, Chirila, Grandy, Karaivanova, Potter, Colleran, Barillas, and Spindel. Guests were Provost Jones, SVPAAs Kate Ziemer, Sarah Batterson and Catherine Peebles.

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

**Deposit Deadline:** May 1<sup>st</sup> was the incoming student deposit deadline. In Durham, the deposits were soft by 25 students. The budget reflected 2,775 students. Deposits totaled 2,726 students. On a brighter note, transfer numbers are up 20%. Manchester undergraduate enrollment is up 20%. Graduate student growth is also up about 20%, much of this due to international students. This is the strongest undergraduate academic class the university has ever admitted. Average GPA is 3.66.

**UNH Statehouse Day:** Provost Jones and others were at the NH Statehouse last Thursday. The day was a success. He continues to be optimistic about funding from the legislature.

**Core Proposals:** Core Proposals were due yesterday. These proposals represent interdisciplinary faculty who are looking to work together. Twenty-seven proposals were submitted. This proposal process was started in 2017 and has resulted in \$2.7 million being awarded. Given that work has state implications, additional funding for this year was awarded through the counties via the Cooperative Extension.

**NECHE:** NECHE review begins tomorrow.

**Question:** A COLSA senator shared that her college had a meeting yesterday where the dean shared he is being asked to cut \$2 million from the COLSA budget. These cuts are to compensate for the decreased deposits noted previously in Provost Jones' remarks. Given that Provost Jones remains hopeful this loss of 25 deposits can be made up elsewhere, will this budget cut go away?

**Answer:** This year we've continued to work on our budget process. All units were asked to roll out both expenses and projected revenue. These numbers were submitted before May 1 and showed a \$54,000,000 budget. To address this issue, each dean was asked to work with their FARR director to build a budget that represented a 15% reduction in supplies and services. However, they were told they could find this reduction in any way they liked. The deans had full discretion in how they went about doing that. As of today, all deans have hit their number. Provost Jones shared it is better to prepare for a deficit and redeploy funds, than to count on funds that do not materialize.

**Question:** Vice Chair Vidya Sundar shared she has heard talk of a plan to establish a UNH College of Education. Can you share more on this? Will faculty be involved in this process?

**Answer:** SVPAAs Ziemer answered there's already a School of Education in Granite State College. Following the merger, GSC will become part of the College of Professional Studies. The existing GSC

School of Education school will be reconfigured to a UNH School of Education. This transition is in the very beginning stage. A first meeting recently took place to create the charter needed to identify who are the people needed in the room to develop a charge for a shared governance committee to design a School of Education.

Question: A CEPS senator asked if UCAPC will be involved in the formation of this new school?

Answer: Yes. At some point UCAPC will have to be involved.

Question: Vidya asked for clarity regarding mixed message on compensation/course buy-outs for the 2023 Ad Hoc Discovery Committee. Previous messaging from the administration is not in line with the messaging being given back to faculty by [some] deans.

Answer: Provost Jones is meeting with the deans tomorrow and this issue is on the agenda. He wants to ensure he gives the deans maximum flexibility on the issue but also wants to ensure that the colleges are all seating the committee similarly. The deans are supportive of the committee, finding the resources to support the work is the challenge.

Provost Jones left the meeting.

## **II. Approval of the April 24, 2023**

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## **III. Comments by and Questions to the Chair**

- Chair Matt MacManes urges everyone to come to an end of the year celebration at the Hop and Grind in Durham.
- Matt provided an update on the Hamel Honors and Scholars College Design and Implementation Committee by sharing the candidates chosen for the committee are now in the hands of college deans and department chairs.
- 2023 Ad Hoc Discovery Committee currently has about 30 faculty nominations (70 surveys completed). The nominations have not yet been whittled down to 2 faculty members per college.
- Approximately 50 senators have filled out the Faculty Senate 2023-2024 Standing Committee preference survey. If you haven't yet, please be sure to fill out the survey. It was redistributed this morning.

Question: A COLA senator asked for clarity as to how the Agenda Committee will select faculty members to serve on the 2023 Ad Hoc Discovery Committee? What is the process for identifying representatives from the current 30 nominations?

Answer: Matt answered the Agenda Committee will attempt to ensure a diverse representation on the committee meaning all faculty career stages should be represented as well as life experiences and lastly, via the answers given to the questions on the nominations survey. Should the AC find that they can't distinguish between two great candidates, they will seek guidance from the senators and the AC member from that college. If necessary, the AC could consider a run-off election.

## **IV. APC Motion on the UNH-GSC Catalog Review**

Chair of Academic Program Committee Amy Ramage reviewed the motion presented at the April 24 meeting of Faculty Senate. Amy asked for any thoughts or questions from the floor.

Question: Vidya asked if the policies being addressed in the motion pertain only to undergraduate students.

Answer: Yes. Policies related to graduate students went to the Graduate Council.

Question: A CEPS senator asked for clarity on whether changes to the Pass/Fail policies affect course requirements for majors.

Answer: No. Changes to Pass/Fail policies do not include course work related to majors.

A further review of the guidelines in the motion on the floor was presented.

There was a question regarding how withdrawals will impact a student's GPA and will there be any retroactive changes to previous Ws on a student's transcript.

Amy shared the current GSC policy is that Ws do not factor into a student's GPA. In adopting this policy for UNH, Ws will not factor into a student's GPA. In addition, SVPAA Ziemer shared that the catalog of the entering class is the catalog that governs student policies for that class therefore there will not be any retroactive changes to UNH student transcripts. Further clarity was offered that the withdrawals being discussed in this motion are not related to a student leaving for extenuating circumstances, such as being sick, etc. Those kinds of withdrawals have different codes. The withdrawals being discussed in this motion are related to students withdrawing from a course unrelated to extenuating circumstances.

**Motion: Endorsement of the recommendations of the Academic Program Committee on a limited set of Academic Catalog Policies for the GSC-UNH merger**

**Rationale:**

In response to the announcement by President Dean in July 2021 about the Granite State College-UNH merger, several merger-focused committees have worked to compare academic catalog policies at the two institutions, to identify potential areas of concern, and to generate recommendations to address them in preparation for the official merger on July 1, 2023. The Academic Program Committee was asked only to review recommendations from the Academic Strategy Group for the following policy comparisons: Pass/Fail, Withdrawal Grades, Academic Petitions and Exceptions, Course Requests/Independent Learning Agreements, Second Majors and Dual Majors, Minors/Second Minors, Concentrations/Options, Bachelor/Associate practice at GSC, Returning for a Second Degree, Dean's List and Honors, Academic Standing, and Academic Honesty.

For most, UNH and GSC are using different descriptive language in their policies. The recommendation is to have GSC adopt the UNH language (e.g., use of either 'option' or 'concentration'). In a few other policies, there is a need to clarify differing processes that will exist for the separate divisions of the College of Professional Studies (CPS) and to codify the catalog to make it very clear to students that policies and processes differ.

**Motion:**

**Endorse the recommendations made by the Academic Program Committee for the integration of UNH and Granite State College (GSC) academic catalog policies on Pass/Fail, Withdrawal Grades, Academic Petitions and Exceptions, Course Requests/Independent Learning Agreements, Second Majors and Dual Majors, Minors/Second Minors, Concentrations/Options, Bachelor/Associate practice at GSC,**

**returning for a Second Degree, Dean's List and Honors, Academic Standing, and Academic Honesty (described in the Appendix).**

The motion passed with 50 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

#### **V. Campus Planning Committee motion UNH Endowment Investing Increase Focus ESG-Net Zero**

Chair of the Campus Planning Committee James Malley reviewed the motion on the floor. This review included how comments on the motion from the April 24 meeting were incorporated into the version of the motion currently on the floor for a vote.

#### **Motion: UNH Endowment Investing Ensuring Alignment with Sustainability Goals**

Rationale:

- The University strongly supports sustainability initiatives and works diligently to maintain its AASHE'S Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Platinum Rating.
- The University Administration and Foundation has endorsed and made strides to ensure that the endowment investments are consistent with UNH's WildCAP2021 and platinum sustainability status.

Current estimates reported by Wilkinson, total USNH/UNH endowment investment portfolio \$502.4M (June 2021), portion attributed to UNH Foundation portfolio \$111.5M and 47% of this (\$52.4M) allocated to the ESG pool of investments. The senate encourages UNH to continue to evaluate these practices and ensure that the endowment investments are consistent with UNH's WildCAP2021 and platinum sustainability status.

#### **Motion:**

**The Faculty Senate encourages the UNH administration to continue to evaluate their endowment investments and ensure that their investment portfolio is consistent with UNH's WildCAP2021 and platinum sustainability status.**

The motion passed with a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

#### **VI. Discussion and final review of AAC Report on the SEL Redaction Process**

Sara Robinson, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee shared a report prepared by the AAC related to the redaction process in the Student Evaluation of Learning (SEL). Due to the newness of the SEL the committee only had access for data from the Fall semester. The SAC can provide

Spring data during the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate session. Sara asked the group for feedback on the AAC report and on individual faculty experiences with using the redaction process.

Question: A UNH-M senator shared that it has been brought to his attention that the redaction timeline is inconsistent with the deadlines to submit SELs under the lecturers' contract. The redaction period is such that it does not allow lecturers to utilize SEL redactions in their annual department evaluations.

Answer: Sara said this issue was also raised in their committee discussions. Sara asked if SVPAA Kate Ziemer could be recognized to address this issue.

SVPAA Ziemer shared this issue was identified as a potential conflict. This summer work will be done with the associate deans and Nadine [Petty] to discuss how to address issues in the timeline.

A COLA shared the practice is given that SELs for spring semester aren't back in time to have them considered in evaluations for the current academic year, those spring SELs are punted into next year. In other words, when a department chair looks at a faculty member's work, they are looking at the activities that the faculty member has completed during this academic year, but also SELs from the previous year's spring semester.

The CBA addresses the timeline for when a faculty review needs to be given back to a faculty member. Excluding the spring SELs is not a policy but rather a workaround to accommodate the conflicting timeline.

This same COLA senator asked for clarification with regards to what redactions physically look like. Is a big black line through the language being redacted? In looking at a student's SEL, does having a redaction make the whole SEL invalid, or are only certain comments removed but the remaining comments in the evaluation remain?

Answer: Redactions are comment based. The remaining commentary stays intact. With regards to what redactions look like, Kate shared she is not sure and will investigate that over the summer.

Question: How protected are these redactions? Are they immune from freedom of information requests?

Answer: There is criteria in place with regards to FIO requests, but that is handled through the legal department and neither Sara nor Kate felt it was within the scope of expertise to comment further. In offering a further explanation, Kate referenced FERPA and protecting a student's identity within the Blue system. Kate reiterated the need to investigate what happens to redactions more closely.

Vidya suggested how redactions are done and what they look like would be a good AAC charge for next year.

Chair Matt prepared the group for the next meeting which is the first meeting of next year's Faculty Senate.

The final meeting of the 2022-2023 Faculty Senate was adjourned *sine die*.