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2021-2022 FACULTY SENATE XXVI - May 10, 2021 Minutes Summary

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2021-2022 FACULTY SENATE XXVI

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 4:40 pm on May 10, 2021, via ZOOM MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll – The following senators were absent: Afolayan, J. Davis, DeJoie, Grandy, Harvey, Herold, and Innis. The following senators were excused: Came, Holcombe, and Ramadanovic

II. Election of Agenda Committee members for Faculty Senate Session - The slate of proposed Agenda Committee members was presented by Senate chair Erin Sharp, as follows: Kevin Healey, chair, Matthew MacManes, vice chair, Jim Connell, Harriet Fertik, and Vidya Sundar as at-large members of the committee. There were no nominations from the floor. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the slate as presented.

III. Remarks by and questions to the chair - Kevin Healey, the newly elected chair shared a poem that he and Erin Sharp will also be sharing with the graduating classes at the upcoming commencement ceremonies. The poem is from a 1936 edition of The New Hampshire Student Writer. The poem was written by Ralph Corlies Rudd. His gravestone is in Durham.

Kevin shared that the poem is remarkable in terms of how things have changed and how things have not changed.

Class Ode 1936

from the white colonial pride of lazy villages,
from the sun and snow, of hilltop farms,
from the busy blare of cities, mills, and shops
we gathered here
impatiently alive, we hungered to know and understand a bigger world.
We've lived in peace within our ivy walls,
And outer storms have only rippled here.
Battles challenge commands us now,
life, virile and passionate yet bitterly desperate.
With the choking want of a plenty starved land.
May we see the need and answer
may courage conquer when we withdraw back and rest,
may our hands and brain be strong to dream our dreams and forge them into life.

Kevin said that the first line is clearly highlighting, maybe unintentionally, the legacy of colonialism and that just one year after he wrote this poem Columbus Day became a national holiday. Kevin said that it wasn't until this past year that UNH officially recognized this land as the traditional lands of the Abenaki, Penacook, and Wabanaki peoples and, reframed Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Kevin said that it is interesting to think about 1936 and how we got here, where came from and where are we now. He also shared that to have a vision as President Dean noted at the beginning of the prior session it is important to keep in mind that it takes time. It is a slow process. It is frustrating to all of us, including students, but we press on. Kevin concluded by saying that he is looking forward to pressing on with the newly elected Agenda Committee that with all senators

- Kevin reminded senators that a committee preference survey will be sent to all senators and that chairs are still needed for some committees. Also, due to Covid, a summer planning meeting for the full Senate will not be held this summer.

IV. New Business

- A UNH Manchester senator shared that there have been prior discussions in the Senate about charging a committee with inquiring of the Registrar whether we could start tracking minors in DegreeWorks so that it would be possible for students to start declaring minors and for advisors to track their progress toward minors. He asked that this be considered in the coming year.

- A CEPS senator asked if the Senate has an AAUP Relations Committee and how the Senate made aware of union issues when they come up. Jim Connell, the Senate parliamentarian, responded that the Senate can discuss issues that touch on the AAUP but can't vote on them. He said that the issue is further complicated by the fact that the Senate has faculty from three different faculty unions and also represents faculty who are not in a union, i.e., research faculty and clinical faculty. Jim added that the leadership of the Agenda Committee does have conversations with the leadership of the unions when issues of mutual concern come up

- Andrew Coppens asked to put on the floor the following resolution that was prepared by the 2020-21 Student Affairs Committee:

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 Sure enough it to continue forward with unresolved business. I would like to put the resolution from the Student Affairs Committee on to the Senate floor. Resolution is on faculty responsibility and authority over course content, pedagogy, and modality.

The chair pointed out that the Senate will return to this motion in the fall.

- A COLA senator suggested that the Senate consider adopting a land recognition statement as part of its work in the coming year.

V. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

Some UNH acronyms

AAC	Academic Affairs Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
AC	Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate
ASAC	Academic Standards & Advising Committee
APC	Academic Program Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
AT	Academic Technology
BAC	Budget Advisory Committee
CaPS	Career and Professional Services
C&PA	Communications & Public Affairs

CCLEAR	Clinical, Contract, Lecturer, Extension, Alternative Security, Research faculty
CEITL	Center for Excellence & Innovation in Teaching & Learning
CFAR	Center for Academic Resources
CORPAD	University Committee on Real Property Acquisition and Disposal
CPC	Campus Planning Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
DRC	Discovery Review Committee
FAC	Finance & Administration Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
FAR	Faculty Activity Reporting
IRA	Institutional Research and Assessment
IT	Information Technology
ITC	Information Technology Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
JSMB	Joint Strategic Management Board (Navitas review)
LC	Library Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
OISS	Office for International Students & Scholars
OS	Operating Staff
PACS	Psychological and Counseling Services
PAT	Professional and Technical Staff
PSC	Professional Standards Committee (FS permanent committee)
RPSC	Research & Public Service Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
SAARC	Space Allocation, Adaption and Renewal Committee
SAC	Student Affairs Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
SAS	Student Accessibility Services
SHARPP	Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program
SSSC	Student Success Steering Committee
SVPAA	Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
UCAPC	University Curriculum & Academic Policies Committee (FS permanent committee)
VPFA	Vice President for Finance and Administration