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FACULTY SENATE Minutes Summary 2021-2022 XXVII - February 7, 2022

Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
2021-2022 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 February 7, 2022 via ZOOM MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Provost Wayne Jones comments and questions

1. Due to Omicron, the university opened the spring semester with a higher COVID positivity rate. Despite these results, the resources to manage this increase are holding. The prearrival strategy of getting students tested went well. Typically, students testing positive are going home, allowing quarantine housing to remain at approximately 10%. The university's supply of rapid tests remains strong. A 2nd testing site will be opening for faculty, staff and students. This site will be dedicated to both symptomatic individuals and serve as a site for individuals currently in quarantine to test out on day six. The thinking behind this added site is to keep the symptomatic individuals out of the regular testing pool procedures; and will allow the lab to continue getting testing results back within 12 hours.
2. The university has hired McLain Law Firm to do an external investigation of the hiring of former professor Dan Howard. A report is pending a thorough investigation. Efforts are being made to reach individuals involved in the 2016 hiring. The expectation is a report will be submitted to the General Counsel's office within the next few weeks.
3. The State of the University is being presented by President Dean tomorrow in the Granite State room. There will be a virtual Zoom link as well
4. A Process Improvement initiative has been implemented. Provost Jones thanked Faculty Senate chair and co-chair for sharing two new phone numbers.
 - a. The 1st number (603) 862-4685 is intended to serve as a helpline directing faculty and staff who aren't sure where to go. The idea is to ensure callers are directed to the correct department/person. Early results were successful.
 - b. The 2nd number is an anonymous line. Not yet getting a lot of use. The few calls that were received related mainly to COVID and parking.
5. New Hires:
 - a. The College of Health and Human Services has a new dean, Dr. Kirsten Corazzini. She will be joining the university on March 21, 2022.
 - b. Today is the first visit in a series of 3 visits of the three finalists for the dean of Paul College. A decision is anticipated within the next 3 weeks.

Question and Answer:

Question 1: The COVID dashboard numbers are very high, comparable to the Fall Thanksgiving scare. Given the high numbers, is there new thinking around COVID and what is considered high?

Answer: There are differences between then and now. Vaccination rates among faculty, staff and students are over 91%. Secondly, students testing positive are going home to quarantine, thus removing positive cases from campus. Most of those testing positive are not severely ill. The university resources for testing and managing COVID remain strong; and the local hospitals are not changing direction on COVID recommendations. This is not to say COVID isn't serious, but there are resources and successful protocols in place.

Question 2: Are there updates regarding contract negotiations for faculty groups?

Answer: There are 3 faculty groups that are under collective bargaining agreements:

- a. NEA – The group continues to meet regularly.
- b. AAUP – Fact finding is complete. A mutually agreed-upon date in March has been set for final statements/proposals. The timetables have been established and the work continues.
- c. Lecturers Union – Provost Jones' office is in regular communication and expects face to face meetings to begin in March.

The goal is to complete these contract negotiations by this semester.

Question 3: A question was posed related to the university's response to pedestrians getting hit by cars on Main Street. There have been 3 accidents in less than 4 months. Perhaps an awareness effort by the university could help.

Answer: The Public Safety Committee has been charged to look at this issue. The university did provide support to the students involved. Provost Jones will follow up with Faculty Senate on a broader response.

Question 4: Involved COVID protocols related to in-person participation. Can the university provide more support to faculty who might want to pivot to online learning? A significant number of students are missing class and it's hard to go remote if there isn't more messaging from the administration regarding support for a remote pivot.

Answer: The administration has made it clear to faculty to make that pivot if they feel it is necessary. Faculty are in the best position to make an individual decision for each class. The administration wants to ensure there is support for faculty for both in classroom learning as well as remote learning, or a hybrid of the two. This includes advocating for faculty in the face of student complaints.

Question 5: The questioner raised that Boston University is testing students every week. Should UNH adapt this practice? Secondly, is there COVID spread in the classroom?

Answer: The university is aware of the BU's testing pivot. Conversations regarding frequency of testing continue with the laboratory. Increasing testing frequency requires the university have the

capacity to manage the pivot. The new testing facility dedicated to testing quarantining individuals on day six will help provide future direction. Some large flagship universities in the area have gone to only symptomatic testing. Health and Wellness is not seeing classroom transmission. There are students in the same classes testing positive, but those students may be rooming, eating and socializing together. The lab is finding 60% of students are testing weekly (by choice).

Question 6: Discouraged to see Keene State College and UNH compared to one another with regards to contract negotiations. KSC is not a research institution. UNH is.

Answer: Provost Jones shared he was not in a position to speak to this comparison as it was made in a message from the president of the university. However, the point in the message was more to indicate what the board had approved as an example.

Question 7: The university message regarding classroom spread is perceived as anecdotal. How in fact is the university monitoring classroom spread?

Answer: This is a question Provost Jones regularly asks Peter Degnan. Indicators leading to classroom spread being a secondary concern are related to the small number of faculty getting infected and the contact tracing showing spread is more likely between roommates, meal sharing, friends and social groups.

Question 8: Related to both cost and potential changes to parking on campus. Current reports lack information on market costs.

Answer: There was some work being done regarding changes to campus parking but per Chris Clement those changes are on hold.

Question 9: The system SAS has for informing faculty of a student disability is excellent. Is there a way to model this practice with COVID? Could the university establish a similar alert system for students in quarantine. Keeping track of messages related to quarantining students is cumbersome and hard to manage under the current system.

Answer: Provost Jones said he will pass this idea onto Michael Blackman.

II. Updates from the chair

A. Announcement of new Senate committee chairs.

1. Rosemary Caron is now chairing the Library Committee.
2. Barbara White is the new co-chair, with Kate Ziemer, of the AD Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of Teaching.
3. Two members of UCAPC have stepped down. John Hasseldine is serving as proxy for Catherine Plante. One seat remains vacant.
4. Anna Wainwright has taken on the role of chair for the AD Hoc Committee on Diversity Requirement for General Education. The committee had its first meeting on 2/2/2022. Anna is in the process of scheduling a second meeting. One of the committee goals is to review in detail the charges that were given to them by the Agenda Committee.

Committee members were chosen by the Agenda Committee due to their expertise on this topic.

B. Other committee updates

1. SAC: Kate Ziemer shared that she met with the SAC regarding First Day Complete. She will be providing them with a write up on the details of the FDC program. From there the SAC will provide the AC with a recommendation.

C. Update on vote of No Confidence in HR

On January 12, 2022, the full AC met with HR for an hour or more over Zoom. During the call the group discussed testing procedures for the changes being made to Kronos. FS Chair Kevin Healey had a face to face debrief with Kathy Neils on Monday the 31st. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, 2/10 @ 8:00 AM. Attendees will include the full AC and the chairs of the FAC and RPSC, Stephen Pimpare and Ivo Nedyalkov respectively. The goal of this meeting is to ensure the chairs of the two standing committees and the AC members are on the same page with regards to what exactly are the next steps in coming to a resolution regarding the motion of no confidence in HR management.

D. Spring semester is an election semester.

The Agenda Committee will be reviewing the election process to see if there is a way to make the election less cumbersome and complicated.

During the questions and answer session for the Chair, a member of the agenda committee reminded senators that the motion of no confidence in HR is directed at HR management and not HR as a whole.

Provost Jones referenced a PowerPoint deck that was passed onto Amanda Peterson, Sr. Administrative Assistant for the FS, for distribution to the full senate membership. The PP includes changes to HR, finance, research and other departments for the month of January.

Question: A question was asked about the organizational structure of the university? There are webpages within the university website listing the executive council and other administrative committees, but it is unclear what role individuals play on these committees.

Provost Jones responded that he would bring a presentation to the next senate meeting outlining the university administration. These slides will be shared prior to the meeting and discussed during his remarks. This desire to better understand the administrative structure is also in discussions within the FAC. Chair Stephen Pimpare shared with Provost Jones that the FAC would like him to join a committee meeting to discuss this same issue.

The Research and Public Service Committee chair Ivo Nedyalkov shared that his committee will be presenting a report and motion on the land recognition statement at the next senate meeting. He continued the committee will be working on a second document related to the university's R1 status. Lastly, the committee is working on another document outlining university research work at the university and how that research might be used in marketing materials for future student recruitment.

Andrew Seal, chair of the AAC shared with the group the roll out of the new student add/drop email being sent to faculty from the registrar's office. The first of such an email went out recently. This new email notification practice is generated after the add/drop period and is for information purposes. This new messaging mechanism from the registrar's office was in partnership with the AAC. Senators shared that this update from the registrar's office was great and much appreciated!

III. Presentation by Dean Decelle and Dean Stanley on the UNH/GSC merger

Goals of the merger:

1. Merge GSC and UNH Manchester as a single academic unit based on the complimentary and similar student markets both serve. This initiative is furthered by the increase in UNH-Manchester students wanting more online learning given the non-traditional adult population this school serves.
2. To develop an expanded mission within UNH-Manchester online and one that leverages the long years of quality online learning GSC has developed in delivering both undergraduate and graduate programs.
3. Develop a better system within the university to organize and maintain the portfolio of non-credit and training experiences available to non-traditional learners. The merger is looking at how to create better pathways between credit and noncredit spaces.

This merger is a very complex undertaking. There are similarities between UNH-Manchester and GSC but there are stark differences in how the universities operate. To break down these many differences several working groups and committees have been established. There are currently 13 (half are faculty from either UNH or GSC) working groups with 144 individuals breaking down different parts of the merger. These working groups are coordinated and supported by the Merger Steering Committee. The merger leadership team is chaired by Provost Wayne Jones. Provost Jones fields and manages merger recommendations which eventually find their way to President Dean who in turn brings recommendations and initiatives to the University Board of Trustees.

Dean Stanley spoke to the online aspects of the merger. The goal is to expand the reach of online learning within UNH-Manchester. To support the expansion of online learning at UNH-Manchester the merger group anticipates going to the Board to Trustees to ensure the necessary tools and resources are in place.

Dean Decelle went on to talk about the differences between GSC and UNH-Manchester. Each has separate IPED reporting structures. There will be two distinct divisions within the merged institutions.

1. The Granite State College Division.
2. The Manchester Division, which is essentially UNH-Manchester as it currently exists, but with the addition of the GSC online graduate programs.

The online graduate programs will be fully integrated into the UNH Graduate Council. The goal is that UNH-Manchester and GSC graduate students can register for a common set of online courses that would satisfy discovery requirements within UNH Manchester and the GSC division. This newly formed college is currently being referred to as the UNH College of Professional Studies. For now, this is a working title only to reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of the school that will serve non-traditional students or adult learners. The College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University is very similar and was referenced as an example.

The goal for completing the graduate program merger is the Fall 2023. The merger still needs to be passed by the State Legislature. There is much work still to do including moving the current term schedule of GSC courses from a 3 term 12 week schedule to an 8 week term configuration.

Questions for Dean Decelle and Dean Stanley:

The first questioner noted that the merger slides and information presented neglected to include the Faculty Senate role in the work. Dean Decelle acknowledged the role committees of the Senate will play as the process moves forward. There was a question about duplicate services – Dean Decelle re-emphasized the goal of the merger is to expand UNH-Manchester’s online capacity. GSC can provide a road map to do so. It was further noted that the majority of GSC professors are adjunct. Dean Decelle shared this is typical of online learning universities.

There was a question referencing the new working-name, the College of Professional Studies and will this be where all UNH graduate programs will land. Answer, no. The College of Professional Studies will still be focused on an adult/non-traditional online learner. Question: what needs to happen for this merger to take place within the expected time frame? Answer: the working groups coming to consensus. Dean Decelle said an important point to understand, though there are some academic overlaps between institutions, there is almost no market overlap. The two entities serve distinctly different student populations. Because UNH-Manchester and UNH Durham have different IPED codes and UNH-Manchester has limited research activity and no PhD programs, the R1 status of UNH should not be impacted by the merger. In fact, the IPED status differential acts almost as a firewall. This furthers the idea of a College of Professional Studies, a separate entity serving a different student population. Northeastern University was again referenced as an example of an R1 institution with a professional studies component.

IV. Report from GERC

The GERC had one initial charge: To assess whether a modified version of the 2021 Discovery Review Committee proposal should be prepared, or whether a new proposal should be developed?

GERC Recommendation:

- A modified version of the DRC proposal should not be prepared
- A new proposal should be developed – however, doing so will involve clarification and/or resolution of existing uncertainties.
- In the interim GERC recommends the senate work with the Discovery Review Committee to improve the current general education program.

Question and Answer for GERC. Ellen Fitzpatrick, GERC chair provided an overview of the report and fielded the Q & A session.

Question: Thoughts for the committee on next steps and when would be the right time for FS to revisit the general education requirements? Answer: The GERC made a conscious decision not to provide recommendations regarding next steps or a time frame. The group felt the work done by the DRC was significant. Much has changed since then – the pandemic, the pending merger – but the current DRC is the best prepared and informed entity to address changes to the gen ed program.

Senate chair Kevin Healey noted that the NECHE accreditation process may provide support structures and resources for a more thorough overhaul of the gen ed curriculum. The chair argued that there may be advantages to embarking on a more thorough overhaul of the gen ed curriculum at a later date, including additional resources afforded by the NECHE process, potential changes to the Honors program, etc. It may be possible to leverage these things to ensure that an overhaul of the gen ed curriculum is more adequately resourced and does not fall entirely on the shoulders of a small group of Faculty Senators.

MOTION

Jim Connell made a motion “To endorse the recommendations of the General Education Review Committee”

Seconded by Tim Montminy

53 yays

2 nays

1 abstention

Faculty Senate Chair Kevin Healey: “the motion passes”

Next steps: The AC will determine next steps.

Andrew Colby Motion

The motion recognizing the work of Andy Colby was tabled due to time constraints. Vice Chair Matt MacManes shared the intent of the motion honoring Andy Colby for his year's of service.

The adoption of the 12/13/2021 minutes were tabled until the next meeting of the FS.

The meeting was adjourned.