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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXIV - M16 on the defintion of Student Succuss

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXIV- M16
on the definition of Student Success

1. Motion presenter: Lisa MacFarlane, on behalf of the Academic Program Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion: 03/02/2020 and 04/27/20

3. Rationale: “Student Success” is a term of art among university administrators and is, in essence, an index of retention and graduation rates. It does not include measures of academic learning, student well-being, or any other educational goals that faculty regard as markers of student success. This is our attempt to establish what faculty regard as “Student Success.”

4. Motion:

Preamble - In [The Future of UNH: Four Strategic Priorities](#), President Dean identified quantifiable metrics that would indicate enhanced student success:

- graduation rates for both the total student body and for those receiving Pell Grants;
- the percentage of graduates who are paying back their loans;
- the percentage of first-year students in the top 10% of their high school class; and
- student participation in high-impact learning experiences.

We endorse these as indices of the ambitious scholarly and material goals of the administration’s strategic plan for improving the University’s position in a competitive higher education market. As faculty at an R1 public institution with a distinctive focus on and commitment to undergraduate education, we urge that additional, less tangible more qualitative values be equally prioritized, and that the pursuit of quantifiable benchmarks not overshadow the aspiration to support a student’s full and holistic development.

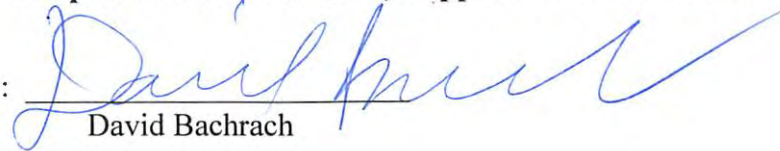
The Faculty Statement:

We affirm that the full value of an outstanding undergraduate experience both encompasses and lies beyond numerical metrics. It is manifested over the totality of a life well-lived, both personally and in service of our social and civic responsibilities; and in the ability both to thrive in changing times and to shape those times for the better.

In addition to quantifiable metrics, then, the Faculty Senate advises the senior administration to attend to other factors of the student experience. These include but need not be limited to: a love of learning; a preparedness to be an engaged citizen; an ability to flourish in a global society; and a confidence to navigate life’s uncertainties.

5. Senate action: The motion passed with 54 in favor, 1 opposed and 4 abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature:


David Bachrach

Forwarded to the following on March 26, 2020:

President James Dean

Wayne Jones, Provost

P.T. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All Deans

All Department Chairs