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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXIV - M15 On the gender question on Student Evaluations of Teaching

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**UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXIV- M15**

On the gender question on Student Evaluations of Teaching

1. Motion presenter: Susan Endrizzi and Nena Stracuzzi, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee. Amended by substitution by the Senate. Further amended after adoption by the Senate.
2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion: 12/09/19, 02/03/20, 02/17/20, 03/02/20, 04/20/20, 04/27/20
3. **Rationale:** The Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate (SAC) was charged with reviewing Student Senate Resolution 39.17 (Dec. 10, 2017) requesting that the binary question included on Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) forms regarding biological sex (male/female) be changed to a self-determined gender question with more inclusive gender non-conforming response choices.

The values of diversity, inclusion and equity are inextricably linked to our mission of teaching and research excellence, and we embrace these values as being critical to development, learning, and success.

The SAC presented a gender question option to the Faculty Senate based on a recommendation from the UNH Transgender Policy and Climate Committee and the Trans UNH Student Organization.

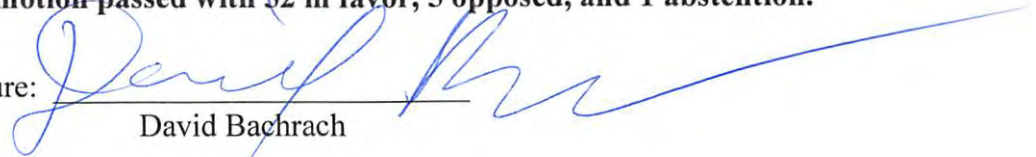
The Faculty Senate considered the recommended options and information about how the gender question is used at the university and came to the following conclusions:

- At this time, there is no clear consensus on what an appropriate and inclusive gender question looks like and best practices in this area are changing. Therefore, any proposal is still likely to not be accepted by some people.
- There is a belief that, even in its current form, the gender question hampers student anonymity. A gender question that includes more refined options is likely to amplify this concern and further affect the participation rate or the accuracy of the gender information provided.
- The university has not provided any compelling information about how gender question data from SET results is used. While some faculty reported that they find gender information useful, there was not a strong advocacy for retaining the question for this purpose.
- Analysis on the relationship between gender and grades can be done at an institutional level, although we recognize that, at this time, the analysis is based on the binary gender option, Male or Female.

4. Motion: Therefore, the Senate moves to remove the gender question from the Student Evaluation of Teaching forms.

5. Senate action: The motion passed with 52 in favor, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention.

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
Bill Poirier, UNH and USNH Chief Information Officer
Terri Winters, Assistant Vice Provost for Digital Learning & Communication
UNH Office of Community, Equity and Diversity

All Deans
All Department Chairs
Student Body President