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Motion: Suspending Online Rules through Spring 2021 Faculty Senate 2020-2021 Session

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**Motion: Suspending Online Rules through Spring 2021
Faculty Senate 2020-2021 Session**

Senate Committee: Academic Program Committee (APC)

Description of the Relevant Charge, Problem, or Question:

The following Faculty Senate rules are in place governing certain online courses (See the actual motions below)

1. Inquiry 444 and Discovery Lab courses must be offered in a face-to-face format.
2. The University Honors Program does not allow online courses to count toward the Honors curriculum.
3. Online WI courses must meet the following conditions:
 - i. Undergraduate online WI courses should primarily be offered in an 8-week eUNH semester;
 - ii. Class size capped at 24 students;
 - iii. Courses must conform to established UNH WI course guidelines which are valid regardless of model;
 - iv. WI proposals should be generated for new online courses in accordance with established course proposal processes, as well as for existing conventional courses that are migrating to online modes or changing timeframes.

Motions were passed during the COVID-19 response to waive these rules for the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters (See below).

As UNH makes plans to operate in yellow COVID-19 mode during Spring 2021, the APC has been asked to consider a motion to suspend these rules again.

Description of Relevant Previous Senate Action

[Motion # XVII-M12 \(2013\)](#)

- a. Endorses position of Discovery Program and WC that a change in mode to online is sufficient change to warrant a review of a previously approved course by the relevant committee.
- b. The FS endorses the current moratorium on online courses for both Discovery Inquiry courses and WI courses (whether Discovery or not)

[Motion # XVII- M11 \(2013\)](#)

- The Faculty Senate endorses the policy of the University Honors Program that does not allow online courses to count toward the Honors curriculum.

[Motion # XXIII-M7 \(2018\)](#)

- a. Moratorium on new on-line WI courses be lifted as long as new on-line courses designated as WI meet all conditions as described in March 29, 2018 position statement by Director of Writing Programs, summarized as follows:

- Undergraduate online WI courses should primarily be offered in an 8-week eUNH semester. They could also be full Fall or Spring semester courses, or 8- and 10-week Summer Session courses. UNH transfer policy allows for 6-2week WI courses to address accelerated quarters, which would be the shortest allowable duration for WI online courses.
- Class size capped at 24 students
- Courses must conform to established UNH WI course guidelines which are valid regardless of mode. WI proposals should be generated for new online courses in accordance with established course proposal processes, as well as for existing conventional courses that are migrating to online modes or changing timeframes, per FS Motion # XVII-M12

[Motion # XXIII- M14 \(2019\)](#)

- To remove the 2013 moratorium prohibiting Inquiry Attribute courses from being delivered in an online format, with the exclusion of Inquiry 444 seminars and Inquiry Labs, which must be offered in a classroom format pending further investigation of best practices.

[Motion XXIV-M12 \(Spring 2020\)*](#)

-to suspend the rules governing online courses during the Summer 2020 due to the extraordinary situation created by COVID-19. **(Note, there were no questions or comments offered when this motion was presented.)**

[Motion XXV – M4 \(June 2020\)*](#)

-to suspend to suspend Faculty Senate rules for online courses for Fall 2020.

(Note, there were no questions or comments offered when the motion was presented)

***Note:** For the recent motions on this related to COVID, the following stakeholders were contacted in advance: Nicky Gullace (Discovery), Lisa MacFarlane (Honors), Ed Mueller (Writing Program), and Andy Colby (Registrar)

Description of Actions taken by the APC in Motion Development (including communication with administrative liaison):

APC consulted program directors for Discovery, Honors, Writing Center and the Registrar's Office. All are on board with this motion.

The motion was presented at the September 28 Faculty Senate meeting.

Draft Motion:

Rationale:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the academic model for Fall 2020 provides that face to face (F2F) instruction should occur as much as is feasible within the health and safety recommendations. However, the model anticipates a mix of course modalities where some courses are totally F2F, some online, and some with rotating attendance for the class with some students F2F and others remote in real time. In light of this model, the Faculty Senate has considered all previous motions on online courses:

April 2, 2013 motion on Honors Program courses not online

April 2, 2013 motion on review required for substantial changes in mode or time for courses

November 30, 2018 motion to support the offering of online courses designated as writing intensive

March 19, 2019 motion on online Inquiry Attribute Courses

March 31, 2020 motion to suspend the Faculty Senate rules for online courses for Summer 2020

June 2020 motion to suspend the Faculty Senate rules for online courses for Fall 2020.

Motion:

In order to provide the most flexible model for instruction to meet the educational needs of students within the health and safety guidelines created by COVID-19, , the Faculty Senate suspends all rules related to online courses for Inquiry 444s, Inquiry Labs, Discovery Labs, Honors courses, and Writing Intensive Courses **for the J-Term 2021 and Spring 2021 semester only.**

