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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION# XXIII-M18 On using MyElements as a platform for Faculty Activity Reporting

Faculty Senate

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXIII – M18
On using MyElements as a platform for Faculty Activity Reporting

1. Motion Presenter: David Bachrach, on behalf of the Agenda Committee

2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 02/25/2019, 03/18/2019

3. Rationale: While we recognize that the use of MyElements as the platform for conducting the Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR) has benefits for the university, there are three non-trivial concerns that the Faculty Senate has concerning both the decision to use MyElements as well as the implementation thereof. First, the decision was not endorsed by the full Faculty Senate, but left in the hands of an AT-led committee with limited faculty representation. The use of MyElements as the platform for FAR was presented as a *fait d’accompli* as a way to ensure compliance in using MyElements. Second, a broad-based survey of the faculty, departmental leadership and college leadership in fall 2018 revealed near-universal frustration with MyElements as the faculty activity reporting tool. Third, the resultant use of faculty data from MyElements in populating university web pages has further frustrated faculty because they and their work are often not being presented accurately or as they desire it to be presented, including choice of name to be presented to the public.

We thus find ourselves forced to use a system that is difficult to use, time consuming, sometimes inaccurate or misleading, and was imposed upon us without the senate’s full consent.

Recognizing, however, that making any strong motion to decouple FAR from MyElements this late in the year would likely result in chaos and confusion, and acknowledging the good-faith efforts by AT to address the concerns of the faculty and to tailor the software to make it more field-appropriate and user-friendly, as well as the IT Committee’s continued work with AT to ensure continued improvements in the process, we here limit ourselves to set benchmarks for faculty satisfaction that establish the *sine qua non* to continue using MyElements for FAR past AY18–19:

4. Motion: We call upon the central administrative leadership to acknowledge that the implementation of MyElements as the platform for Faculty Activity Reporting (FAR) was initiated without the full consent of the Faculty Senate (and thus was a violation of the spirit of shared governance), and to recognize that the Faculty Senate should be able to decide for itself the method of reporting faculty work. In the future we urge the university administrative leadership to seek a full vote by the Faculty Senate before the adoption of any major technological system that directly impacts faculty.

Furthermore, we move that the Faculty Senate Agenda Committee, in consultation with the Information Technology Committee, conduct a second survey of faculty, chairs, and deans in August 2019; if faculty dissatisfaction with MyElements as the platform for FAR remains high, the motion to decouple FAR from MyElements is to be brought to the floor of the Senate for deliberation by the whole body.

Finally, we strongly encourage Academic Technologies to work closely with faculty (ITC and others) in order to resolve the still serious and unresolved issues with MyElements and develop the

system to facilitate an accurate submission of faculty annual achievements in a way that is both transparent and responsive to different disciplines, responsibilities and functions. We also urge central administrative leadership to offer AT the necessary support to address faculty concerns.

5. Senate action: The motion was put to a vote and passed with 52 in favor, 6 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

6. 
Senate chair, Robert S. Smith

Forwarded to the following on April 4, 2019

President James Dean

Provost Wayne Jones

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

Terri Winters, Assistant Vice Provost for Digital Learning & Communication

Jan Nisbet, Senior Vice Provost for Research

All deans

All department chairs