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### UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXIII - M16 on support for a test optional admissions policy

Faculty Senate

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**UNH FACULTY SENATE**  
**MOTION # XXIII – M16**  
**on support for a test optional admissions policy**

1. Motion presenter: Shelley Mulligan, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 02/11/2019, 02/25/2019
3. **Preface:** The Office of Admissions would like to move to a test optional admissions policy that would no longer require UNH undergraduate applicants to submit standardized test scores (e.g., SAT/ACT) as part of their application materials. The primary reason cited for this change is that the Admissions office believes this to be an effective strategy for increasing the quantity and diversity of the applicant pool. Further arguments provided to support this change are that SAT/ACT scores provide little additional predictive information regarding likelihood of students' first-year success beyond high school GPA. Admission decisions are currently primarily driven by HS transcripts (i.e., grades, course difficulty, etc.), and by placing the high school transcript in context (e.g., by using characteristics of HS, curricula). In addition, research suggests that standardized testing may include bias that misrepresents the abilities of social and class groups marginalized or underrepresented at UNH or in American society. Thus, requiring SATs/ACTs may be embedding this bias in UNH Admissions Policy.

**Motion: The Faculty Senate supports the move to a “test optional” admissions policy for undergraduate admissions at UNH, provided that:**

- **students decide whether to submit standardized scores or not based on which approach the student believes makes the strongest application;**
- **additional resources to review applications if necessary would be provided to the Admissions Office;**
- **the review process and criteria for reviewing and evaluating applications for university scholarships be modified appropriately as needed to ensure the process remains equitable and fair;**
- **individual departments, or Colleges reserve the right to require additional admission criteria to select programs which may include ACT and/or SAT test scores upon consultation with the Admissions Office, to ensure satisfactory admission criteria for such programs;**
- **the Office of Admissions collects data yearly to monitor and evaluate the impact of the test optional policy on student outcomes, and the quality, quantity and diversity of the applicant pool, and matriculated students, making a report to the Faculty Senate each year for the first three years; and**
- **the policy undergoes a formal review by the Faculty Senate three years after it is implemented.**

**4. Senate action: The motion passed with 54 voting in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention.**

5.   
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Senate Chair, Robert S. Smith

6. Forwarded to the following on March 19, 2019

President James Dean

Provost Wayne Jones

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

Rob McGann, Interim Vice President, Enrollment Management

All deans

All department chairs