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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION #XXI-M17 resolution on a residential aspect to the Honors Program

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION #XXI-M17
resolution on a residential aspect to the Honors Program

1. Motion presenter: Scott Smith, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee


2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 5/1/2017, 5/8/2017

3. Rationale: In the spring semester of 2016 Jerry Marx and Kate Gaudet of the University Honors Program presented to the faculty senate a proposal for changing the Honors Program to an Honors College. At the center of this change were two main recommendations: 1) creating a residential center for the honors program which would house both students and an administrative center of the program, and 2) a slight increase in administrative staffing which would be paid for by the addition of a fee (\$100) imposed on students in the honors program. The proposal came on the heels of a modest curricular change (see Motion #XIX-M6), which introduced, among other things, a new "symposium" model, which sought to create four courses on the same general topic from different disciplines, as well as an experimental "super-course" that allowed a 5-credit class to count as two discovery requirements (this latter experiment has since been discontinued). The Faculty Senate motion mandated a review of these curricular changes in AY 2017–18.

It is the view of the Academic Affairs Committee, with minor dissent, that the Faculty Senate should endorse in principle the Honors Program's goal to create a residential and administrative center for the Honors Program. The majority of the committee is, however, concerned that a change of name from "Honors Program" to "Honors College" may be misleading since no new structural or curricular changes are proposed. To that end, we put forward the following narrow resolution in support of the need of a "major named gift" (Proposal, dated 1.22.16, p. 3) to bring to fruition this potentially transformative change to the Honors Program.

4. Resolution: The Faculty Senate supports, in principle, the creation of a residential and administrative center for the Honors Program, and urges the administration to seek out alumni and donor support to fund the project.

5. Senate action: The motion passed with 54 votes in favor, 2 vote opposed, and 6 abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on May 9, 2017

President Mark Huddleston

Provost Nancy Targett

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

Jerry Marx, Director, UNH Honors Program