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### 2019-2020 FACULTY SENATE XXIV - March 30, 2020 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
2019-2020 FACULTY SENATE XXIV

The fundamental function of the approved minutes of the Faculty Senate is to accurately document actions taken by that body. Additionally, the minutes traditionally seek to provide context by capturing some statements of Senators, faculty in attendance, and guests. The minutes do not verify the veracity, authenticity, and/or accuracy of those statements.

Meeting called to order at 3:12 pm on March 30, 2020, via ZOOM                      MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll – The following senators were absent: Dorsey, Feldman, Herold, and Robin. The following were guests: Andy Colby, Wayne Jones, Casey O’Heran (President, Graduate Student Senate), Devon Guyer, (Speaker, Student Senate), Allie McPhee (Study Body President), Kelsey Crowley (Student Body Vice President)

II. Remarks by and questions to the Provost - Provost Jones provided the following updates in connection with the university’s COVID-19 Response:

- Today is the first day of remote learning and we’re going to have some bumps. We all need to be very flexible. The support page for faculty for instructional continuity is being updated daily. There is also a page for students.
- There is a concern for students who don’t have internet access. The university has set up drive-by hot spots for students. This requires the students to drive to a particular location to pick up a Wi-Fi signal at any USNH institution.
- The Residential Life staff has been amazing. They have moved out over 4,000 of the 7,000 residential students. At the same time, we are trying to take care of students who are housing insecure. We have one dining hall that is open for meals. There is an effort to transition all on-campus residents to one dorm with all private rooms.
- Most buildings on campus are locked. We want faculty to have access, but we don’t want too many people in a building. Research needs to be protected but we need to be working remotely whenever possible.
- The administration is working with the AAUP on the issue of faculty who are coming up for tenure this year. Hopefully, there will be a joint message to the community by the end of the week.
- Turning Point USA has been suggesting that the current situation gives students an opportunity to record their faculty and post bad behavior for the world to see. We do have in place Faculty Senate policy and Students Rights and Responsibility policies that say that students can be brought up on student conduct charges if they were to do this. There are also copyright laws. NH law requires both sides to agree to a recording but some students may not be in New Hampshire. The administration is working on language for syllabi and MyCourses in connection with recording.
- Jeffrey Halpern shared a story about a graduate student in another program who was given a 24-hour notice to move out. He is an international student and he can’t go home. He will be traveling to stay with

a relative. Jeff asked that the university offer some flexibility with its policies for situations like this. Wayne said that the university is giving students who need to move out until March 30. He suggests that the student, department chair, or Jeff should contact Ted Kirkpatrick with any concerns in this area.

- In response to a question about the lecturer's contract, Wayne said that he believes there has been positive action on it. He doesn't have information to confirm at this point.

- In response to a question about building access after 5 pm, Wayne advised that if a faculty member has a reason to be on campus, they should notify their dean. Faculty and staff should carry university ID with them all the time since there is now a need for more security. Note, if the state puts an order in place, it could override university policy for access to buildings.

- In response to a question about maintenance needs for labs, Wayne explained that every lab should have a continuity of operations plan that includes information about people identified to perform equipment maintenance. However, the information is not known to the State Police. So, if access rules are changed at the state level, there will be separate guidelines sent out.

- In response to a question about rumors that UNH has already laid off staff, Wayne said that the university is paying all employees through April 3. We are trying to protect our employees as best we can. It is not known how long this can be extended. All federal work-study students will be paid whether the students are on campus or not. TAs will continue to be paid and we need to think creatively about how to keep them engaged. We have confirmation from some federal agencies that as long as our policies are the same across the board, they will respect the charging of grants. NIH and NASA are out publicly on the topic and we are hopeful about other agencies.

- In response to a question, Wayne said that there is a new link on the instructional resources page about testing options and software to deal with plagiarism. Erin said she would also reach out to AT about this as well.

- Wayne met with graduate student leadership the other day. Graduate students realize they are in a precarious situation. We need to be flexible for graduate students.

- Wayne offered that at this time we are hoping for the best and planning for the worst. There are currently three teams working on 1) the current situation, 2) how to deal with it if it gets worse, and 3) how we turn back on again when the crisis is past. We are in a good position to come out of this strong.

- Wayne thanked the faculty for their work at this difficult time and offered that faculty should contact him if they have any new ideas, technologies, or challenges. He encourages faculty to be flexible with students.

- Wayne closed out his comments by explaining that UNH is an emergency operation center for the state of NH. UNH is also trying to figure out ways to leverage PPE (personal protective equipment). All PPE resources should be funneled through the Police Chief Paul Dean. Chief Dean is on the state emergency operations center team and he will direct the PPE equipment where it is needed most. UNH is also working to identify some equipment that may be valuable for testing for COVID 19.

III. Remarks by and questions to the chair - David shared that the motion to be discussed on Pass/Fail today does not cover graduate students. The Graduate **Council and the Graduate Student Senate** will be discussing this and the Graduate Student Senate. Once they have established their thoughts the agenda Committee will then mull it over and consult with the senate.

IV. Approval of the minutes from the March 23, 2020 - It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of March 23, 2020. A change was suggested in Section II. Thus adjusted, the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Discussion and Vote on Pass-Fail Motion for Spring Semester 2020 – The chair explained that this motion was developed through an exhaustive process and that the current version is fundamentally different than the version presented on March 23. The Agenda Committee has received approximately 200 comments about the motion from faculty across the university. The Agenda Committee has had conversations with all of the interest groups and stakeholders and this motion represents the best efforts of the Agenda Committee to come up with a compromised position that might not make everyone happy but hopefully minimizes the amount of unhappiness.

Scott Smith from the Agenda Committee presented the motion as follows:

**Rationale: The students, faculty, and administration of UNH are experiencing unprecedented disruptions, not only to their academic work, but also in their personal lives—disruptions that are likely to get worse as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. The university community believes that learning and teaching can be an important means of helping both students and faculty maintain some aspects of normalcy even as we all live through these extraordinary times. The Faculty Senate is operating on the understanding that both students and faculty will continue to work hard to maintain the university’s standard of excellence. At the same time, it understands that the change in instructional delivery, but more importantly the numerous “unseen” disruptions to our students’ and faculty’s lives, will certainly impact both teaching and learning in profound ways. To alleviate the burden that many of our students will be facing in the coming weeks, the Faculty Senate recommends a flexible and humane policy, and urges all departments to recognize the truly unusual circumstances that both faculty and students are facing.**

#### **Motion**

*Because of our unprecedented position, the Faculty Senate moves that:*

- 1. Any student may opt into a P/F format for any and all Spring 2020 course(s) in progress that has (have) not ended at the time of this motion’s approval, and all such courses would follow established policy for P/F. Students have until April 28, 2020, to make this request. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible. Students are strongly urged to consult with their adviser(s) to ensure that minimum competencies are reached in courses requiring a grade above a D- or which have bearing on certifications and board examinations. Departments shall inform students and college administrators about their policy no later than April 10, 2020, and those departments that insist on higher grade minimums shall develop clear procedures for record-keeping and advising.**

2. **This applies only to undergraduate courses taken by undergraduates for the Spring 2020 semester.**
3. **The Faculty Senate recommends that departments adopt as liberal a policy as possible and accept P as fulfilling major requirements whenever possible.**
4. **All Pass grades will count for all degree requirements, including those for Discovery, BA language requirement and WI courses, as well as major and minor courses, unless departments explicitly inform their majors exactly which courses for which a pass will not count for major or minor requirements. It is incumbent on departments, not the registrar, to enforce these requirements, and departments are responsible for such advising for Spring 2020.**
5. **Any courses listed as P/F for the Spring 2020 semester will not count toward the maximum number of P/F courses a student can take toward degree fulfillment.**
6. **A student may also drop, penalty-free, one and only one course in which that student is currently enrolled up to April 28. The mark for that course will be “W,” not “WP” or WF” and the course will not affect a student’s GPA. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible.**
7. **The Registrar’s Office shall annotate all students’ transcripts appropriately to indicate the unusual circumstances of the semester.**

After a period of question and answers on the facts of the current version of the motion, a discussion was held for and against the motion and several amendments were offered:

- A motion was made by Michel Charpentier to amend the motion by adding the following statement as Item 9.

*Students may not use the Pass/Fail option to repeat a course.*

The motion was seconded. There were no requests for discussion. The motion was put to a vote and passed with 62 in favor, none opposed and 3 abstentions.

- Erik Berda made a motion to amend Item 4 of the motion **to remove** the following text from item 4:

*except for courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester. It is incumbent on departments/programs, not the registrar, to enforce these requirements, and departments are responsible for such advising for Spring 2020.*

Item 4 would thus read as follows:

*All Pass grades will count for all degree requirements, including those for Discovery, BA language requirement and WI courses, as well as major and minor courses*

The motion was seconded. A discussion was held. Several senators spoke against the amendment expressing concerns related to certification bodies that require letter grades. There were also concerns expressed about department autonomy. As well, there is a concern that some students may have trouble down the road if they don't meet minimum competencies. Another senator said that the ability for departments to have some autonomy is what got buy-in from her department therefore she would not be able to vote for the motion if this was included.

**The motion to amend was put to a vote and failed with 10 in favor and 47 opposed.**

- A friendly amendment was made to add the following sentence to the end of Item 6:

*This option is not available for courses in which a student has already been assigned an F for having broken the rules of academic integrity during Spring semester 2020.*

**There were no objections to this friendly amendment.**

- A motion was made to substitute this language for item 1 of the motion:

*All students will have all of their current letter-graded courses placed into pass/fail format for the Spring semester 2020 unless they opt-out and into a letter grade. All courses taken pass-fail will follow the status policy for pass/fail.*

Andy Colby explained that the policy being proposed with this substitution would require the Registrar to convert all grades to pass-fail and then change them back to letter grades upon upon request. This is a much more extensive process than the original motion being proposed today which retains letter grades with an option for students to request pass-fail for individual courses.

**The motion was put to a vote. The motion failed with 18 in favor, 38 opposed, and 9 abstained.**

- Stephen Pimpore made a friendly amendment add “program” wherever “department” appears in the motion so that it appears as “department/program.” There were no objections to this amendment.

- Scott Ollinger made a motion to add the following sentence to item 4, “*except for courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester.*”

Item 4 would read as follows if this change were accepted:

*4. All Pass grades will count for all degree requirements, including those for Discovery, BA language requirement and WI courses, as well as major and minor courses, except for courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester. It is incumbent on departments/programs, not the registrar, to enforce these requirements, and departments are responsible for such advising for Spring 2020.*

Following a discussion about the amendment, **the motion passed 42 in favor, 9 opposed, and 8 abstentions.**

- The Motion on Pass Fail for Spring Semester 2020, including the approved amendments, was presented for a vote, as follows:

***Motion: Because of our unprecedented position, the Faculty Senate moves that:***

***1. Any student may opt into a P/F format for any and all Spring 2020 course(s) in progress that has (have) not ended at the time of this motion's approval, and all such courses would follow established policy for P/F. Students have until April 28, 2020, to make this request. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar's Office as soon as possible. Students are strongly urged to consult with their adviser(s) to ensure that minimum competencies are reached in courses requiring a grade above a D- or which have bearing on certifications and board examinations. Departments/programs shall inform students and college administrators about their policy no later than April 10, 2020, and those departments/programs that insist on higher grade minimums shall develop clear procedures for record-keeping and advising.***

***2. This applies only to undergraduate courses taken by undergraduates for the Spring 2020 semester.***

***3. The Faculty Senate recommends that departments/programs adopt as liberal a policy as possible and accept P as fulfilling major requirements whenever possible.***

***4. All Pass grades will count for all degree requirements, including those for Discovery, BA language requirement and WI courses, as well as major and minor courses, except for courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester. It is incumbent on departments/programs, not the registrar, to enforce these requirements, and departments/programs are responsible for such advising for Spring 2020.***

***5. Any courses listed as P/F for the Spring 2020 semester will not count toward the maximum number of P/F courses a student can take toward degree fulfillment.***

***6. A student may also drop, penalty-free, one and only one course in which that student is currently enrolled up to April 28. The mark for that course will be "W," not "WP" or "WF" and the course will not affect a student's GPA. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar's Office as soon as possible. This option is not available for courses in which a student has already been assigned an F for having broken the rules of academic integrity during Spring semester 2020.***

***7. The Registrar's Office shall annotate all students' transcripts appropriately to indicate the unusual circumstances of the semester.***

***8. Students may not use the Pass/Fail option to repeat a course.***

The motion passed with 60 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

The chair and the vice chair thanked the senators for such a thoughtful process during a time when all are overwhelmed and said that they were grateful for all of the feedback, support, and help.

VI. Discussion and vote on suspending the Faculty Senate rules for online course for Summer 2020 -

The chair invited Andy Colby, the Registrar, to offer background on the issue. Andy explained that Summer session registration begins on Wednesday, April 1. This is a delay from the original March 23 date. Because of the uncertainty around the COVID-19 situation the university is putting all of summer session courses online. There are Faculty Senate rules in place that prohibit some courses from being offered online. The question is whether the Senate will lift these rules to allow all Summer 2020 courses to be offered online.

In response to a question about Writing Intensive (WI) courses, Andy shared the information he received from Ed Muller, Director of the University Writing Program. There are 11 WI courses scheduled for this summer and only 2 are larger than the suggested limit. There are three courses scheduled for a 5-week session. Ed has stated that the impact of setting aside the WI requirements for summer 2020 would be minimal.

The chair shared that Nicky Gullace, Director of the Discovery Program, is agreeable to the lifting of the restrictions.

Andy shared that if the Senate does not pass this motion today, the courses that fall under the restriction would be removed from view and the consequence would be delayed registration for these courses. It would be hard to predict how this would affect registration for these courses.

The following motion was developed with the help of Andy Colby and with comments from senators at the meeting:

**Rationale:** UNH remains committed to ensuring the health and well-being of its community. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty around when social distancing measures might no longer be required, UNH will offer a wide range of summer classes via remote, non-face-to-face learning.

**Motion: In order not to impede opportunities for student progress toward graduation in this extraordinary situation, the Faculty Senate suspends rules prohibiting online courses for Inquiry 444s and Inquiry Labs, Discovery Labs, and WI intensive courses in sessions shorter than 8 weeks or in sections larger than 24 students, for Summer 2020.**

**A motion was made to suspend the rules to allow for voting today. There were no objections.**

A vote was taken to approve the Motion above. **The motion passed unanimously with 47 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.**

VII. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm.



<b>AAC</b>	Academic Affairs Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>AC</b>	Agenda Committee of the Faculty Senate
<b>ASAC</b>	Academic Standards & Advising Committee
<b>APC</b>	Academic Program Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>AT</b>	Academic Technology
<b>BAC</b>	Budget Advisory Committee
<b>CaPS</b>	Career and Professional Services
<b>C&amp;PA</b>	Communications & Public Affairs
<b>CCLEAR</b>	Clinical, Contract, Lecturer, Extension, Alternative Security, Research faculty
<b>CEITL</b>	Center for Excellence & Innovation in Teaching & Learning
<b>CORPAD</b>	University Committee on Real Property Acquisition and Disposal
<b>CPC</b>	Campus Planning Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>FAC</b>	Finance & Administration Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>FAR</b>	Faculty Activity Reporting
<b>IRA</b>	Institutional Research and Assessment
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>ITC</b>	Information Technology Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>JSMB</b>	Joint Strategic Management Board (Navitas review)
<b>LC</b>	Library Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>OISS</b>	Office for International Students & Scholars
<b>OS</b>	Operating Staff
<b>PACS</b>	Psychological and Counseling Services
<b>PAT</b>	Professional and Technical Staff
<b>PSC</b>	Professional Standards Committee (FS permanent committee)
<b>RPSC</b>	Research & Public Service Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>SAARC</b>	Space Allocation, Adaption and Renewal Committee
<b>SAC</b>	Student Affairs Committee (Faculty Senate standing committee)
<b>SHARPP</b>	Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program
<b>SSSC</b>	Student Success Steering Committee
<b>SVPAA</b>	Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
<b>UCAPC</b>	University Curriculum & Academic Policies Committee (FS permanent committee)
<b>VPFA</b>	Vice President for Finance and Administration