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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXI-M2 on use of Morin gift to UNH

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Faculty Senate, "UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XXI-M2 on use of Morin gift to UNH" (2016). *Faculty Senate Motions*. 143.

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XXI-M2
on use of Morin gift to UNH

1. Motion presenter: Dan Innis, Senate vice-chair, on behalf of the Agenda Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 10/10/2016, 10/24/2016

3. **Rationale:** Robert Morin, UNH '63, lifelong librarian, left \$4,000,000 to the University when he passed in 2015. The gift, announced on August 30, 2016, specifically reserved \$100,000 for the UNH Library. The remaining funds were unrestricted and President Huddleston designated \$2.5 million to "launch an expanded and centrally located career center for our students and alumni," and \$1 million to "support a video scoreboard for the new football stadium." The scoreboard had been previously installed with no mention of any donor.

At the September 26, 2016 meeting of the Faculty Senate, two motions were presented regarding the President's allocation of Professor Morin's generous gift. The first motion, from the Senate Library Committee, expressed the view that many faculty are concerned that the academic mission of UNH was not considered when the unrestricted portion of the gift was allocated. In particular, the Senate Library Committee noted the increasing costs facing the Library and a concern that perhaps more funding should have been directed to the Library. The motion also captures the sense of many that there was a lack of consultation with Colleges and faculty and that there should have been some level of open discussion prior to allocating these significant resources.

The second motion, from the History senators, expresses concern with the decision process and the lack of faculty input and asks for more information from the administration to help the Faculty Senate to understand how this decision was made. Taken together, the motions make it clear that the faculty are upset not only about the allocation of the unrestricted portion of Professor Morin's gift, but also bring into question governance and process. The Agenda Committee has considered both motions and respectfully offers the following joint motion for the consideration of the Faculty Senate.

4. Motion: Resolved:

1. The Faculty Senate most gratefully acknowledges the incredibly generous gift of the late Professor Robert Morin, '63, to the University.
2. While the Senate agrees that the administration has primary responsibility and authority for strategic planning, budgeting, and advancement (FACULTY SENATE MOTION #XIII-M15 on a joint shared governance document), the Faculty Senate is extremely disappointed in the absence of consultation with faculty (which is a positive duty) and deans in the use of the gift, particularly for non-academic purposes.

5. Senate action: The motion passed with 45 votes in favor, 12 votes against, and 4 abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on October 28, 2016

President Mark Huddleston,
Provost Nancy Targett
P.T. Vasudevan, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Debbie Dutton, President UNH Foundation/VP for Advancement
All college deans
All department chairs