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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XX-M31 on the RCM and the Central Budget Committee

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Faculty Senate, "UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XX-M31 on the RCM and the Central Budget Committee" (2016). *Faculty Senate Motions*. 149.
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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M31
on the RCM and the Central Budget Committee

1. Motion presenters: Dan Innis, Senate Finance and Administration Committee chair
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016

3. Rationale: The University of New Hampshire has recently revised the Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) budget model. The general purpose of RCM is to allow revenues to follow activity, and to provide flexibility to units in terms of how they apply resources to academic initiatives. Past revisions of the model were handled through the use of collaborative processes involving administration and faculty. This was often through the former Central Budget Committee, a body that was representative of most areas on campus and served the President in an advisory capacity.

The process for adjusting RCM this year was essentially a “black box.” There was little input from the colleges, faculty, or other stakeholders. The changes were handled in a manner inconsistent with the principles of RCM. It is abundantly clear that the spirit of RCM at UNH has been ignored in the current revision. Further, there has been a lack of shared governance with respect to the budget process and the dissolution of the Central Budget Committee is indicative of the degradation of financial communications and transparency. The role of the CBC should not be understated, and its absence from campus has created a void in the planning process that has given the Administration free reign to modify RCM.

It is important that the administration present a full description of the new RCM model to the Senate. Further, the actual financial impact on each college is not entirely clear and that should be presented for consideration and input.

Given the complete lack of community input into the new RCM revision, as well as the lack of shared governance during the planning process, and the new model’s siphoning of millions of dollars in funds from the academic units to the central administration, it is imperative that the CBC be reconstituted. This matter was addressed by the Senate last fall and supported with Motion XX-M6.

The faculty object strongly to the clear lack of shared governance in the reformulation of Responsibility Centered Management and call for a frank and open discussion about the issue prior to its implementation. The increasing assessment imposed on the operating units diverts funds from academics and the university must provide a written explanation regarding the use of the funds and how they will support the academic mission of the university.

4. Motion: The Finance and Administration Committee moves that the Provost and Vice President of Finance and Administration immediately suspend the implementation of the revised Responsibility Centered Management Revenue Retention formula until a comprehensive description of the new model and a clear plan for the use of such monies has been presented to the Faculty Senate and to the UNH community.

The faculty restates its position that the CBC or similar budget committee be reinstated immediately.

5. Senate action: The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions

6. Senate chair's signature: Deborah A. Keighon

Forwarded to the following on May 13, 2016

President Mark Huddleston

Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan

Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Chris Clement, Vice President of Finance

All college deans