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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XX-M18 on amending constitution to give Agenda Committee power to charge committees, act in summer

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M18

on amending constitution to give Agenda Committee power to charge committees, act in summer

1. Motion presenter: James Connell, on behalf of the Senate Agenda Committee

2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 3/21/2016, 4/11/2016

3. Rationale: Historically, the Agenda Committee, in consultation with the Senate, has charged Faculty Senate committees. Motions creating *ad-hoc* committees usually include language to that effect. The UCAPC charter also gives the Agenda Committee the authority to assign cases. As regards other committees, the authority to charge committees is unwritten.

It was discovered that university calendar issues create a problem when they occur between sessions of the senate, when faculty are away from campus between semesters. In the past in those cases, the Agenda Committee has acted because it had no real choice, even though it technically lacked the authority. The Agenda Committee recommends a second paragraph be added to Article 6.a. of the constitution, as below, to provide explicit authority to the Agenda Committee to act, in exigent circumstances, on behalf of the senate.

4. Motion: To amend the Senate Constitution, Article 6.a to read:

6.a. Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee shall set the Faculty Senate agenda and be responsible for the operations of the Faculty Senate. In addition to committee charges by the Senate itself, the Agenda Committee shall have the authority to charge all Senate committees consistent with the will of the Senate. The Agenda Committee shall consist of the Faculty Senate chair, vice chair and three at-large members. In addition to these five members, the previous senate chair shall serve as an *ex-officio* voting member of the Agenda Committee if possible. In the event that the previous senate chair cannot serve, the Agenda Committee may select a replacement.

In exigent circumstances, when the Faculty Senate is between meetings, and cannot be called into emergency session, the Agenda Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Senate. This power should only be exercised as a last resort. Such actions require a 2/3 majority of the Agenda Committee members present and voting. Where practical, the Agenda Committee should consult with cognizant Senate committee chairs before acting. The members of the Faculty Senate shall be notified (electronic means are acceptable) of such actions within one week, and the Chair of the Faculty Senate shall report on the action at the next Senate meeting. The Faculty Senate retains the authority to reverse any such action by majority vote.

5. Senate action: The motion carried with 42 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on April 29, 2016

President Mark Huddleston

Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan

Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs