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2015-16 FACULTY SENATE XX - August 31, 2015 Minutes Summary

Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2015-16 FACULTY SENATE XX

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 3:48 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2015 MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll – The following senators were absent: Berglund, Hasseldine, Kun, Mulligan, Onosko, Scherr, and Wu. Chief Paul Dean and P.T. Vasudevan were guests.

II. Conversation with Chief Paul Dean – The senate chair welcomed Paul Dean, Chief of the UNH Police Force, and Assistant Vice President for Student and Academic Services and turned the time over to him. Chief Dean has served for 30 years on the police force, and is also an adjunct at Great Bay College. He said he came today, seeking feedback from faculty regarding their public safety needs. He thanked the faculty for staying away from campus during the student move-in days over the past weekend; it helped facilitate the large number of people on campus during move-in. He offered his personal cell phone number to the senators as a quick way to reach him directly, and asked the faculty to reach out to him regarding any public safety question they need answered.

A senator asked about updates on best practices for emergency situations in the classroom. The chief said he would send that information to the senate chair to distribute to the senators. He then pointed out that it is the policy of campus police to not routinely patrol the halls of academic buildings, keeping a low profile in those classroom spaces. He asked how the faculty feel about this low profile, noting that his policy is to never interrupt a class except in the event of an emergency.

Another senator asked about the various colors of uniformed officers on campus. The chief said that there are only two colors of uniforms now: Student Campus Service Officers wear tan shirts and green pants. Formerly, these officers were in Orange and Green uniforms. These are not law enforcement officers, but service providers to the campus community. All campus law enforcement officers wear blue uniforms.

A senator said that there is effective funneling of information from the police to the faculty here on campus, and asked if there is an effective way to communicate in the other direction, from faculty to police. The chief said that any questions or concerns can be sent to him directly at paul.dean@unh.edu. He also reminded the faculty about the Behavioral Intervention Team who can be contacted with faculty concerns. He complimented the faculty on their identification of mental health issues in the past year, saying that 113 students were able to get the help that they needed to return to regular class attendance through the referrals of faculty and the help of campus student services. Chief Dean reminded the faculty that Denise Nelson, the Assistant Dean of Students, is another resource, as well as David Cross in Student Counseling.

A senator then asked what a faculty member should do if they hear of a student having serious problems through the grapevine, rather than from the student themselves. Chief Dean suggested contacting Denise Nelson or Ted Kirkpatrick (acting Vice Provost and Dean of Students) with such information, saying they would know what course of action to take.

Another senator offered praise to the campus law enforcement officers and then asked how many students are living in off-campus housing. The chief replied that there are about a thousand students in off-campus apartments, and spoke about the changed dynamic of having all of these students here in Durham and close to campus rather than spread around the Seacoast area. A more robust nightlife in downtown Durham is one result, as well as a heavier draw on campus services in the evenings as fewer students leave the community after classes.

The senate chair thanked the chief for his time and asked the senators to take this information back to their respective departments.

III. Remarks by and questions to the provost- Interim Provost Vasudevan then spoke to the senate. He spoke about the 87 new faculty members that were welcomed to the campus community last week. Of those, more than half are tenure-track faculty, and about 38% of the new hires are women. The breakdown by college/program is 5 from UNH-Manchester, 2 in EOS, 3 Library faculty, 1 in the Marine School, 12 in PCBE, 10 in COLSA, 23 in COLA 15 in HHS, and 16 in CEPS.

He reviewed some of the material shared at the senate summer planning session, and then went over some of the changes in the office of Student and Academic Services. Ted Kirkpatrick has been asked to serve as acting Vice Provost and Dean of Students, but will also continue his work in the COLA dean's office. Ted will be in charge of SHARRP, Residential Life, OCS, Health Services, and Counseling. The Assistant Dean of Student Services will also report to Ted.

The search for a Senior Vice Provost/Dean of Students will begin in the fall. The deans searches for COLA and UNH-Manchester will continue, using the services of Korn Ferry.

The provost then discussed the ramifications of two back-to-back freshman classes of 3,200 students. Dorm rooms have been converted from doubles to triples, and many of the foundation courses will be tested, particularly in science and mathematics. We are testing our carrying capacity as these larger classes come in.

Vasu then asked the senators to please read Sheila Curran's report on Professional Success and Career Planning. He noted that a task force is examining which of the recommendations can be implemented.

The provost then announced that the deconstruction of Hamilton-Smith has already begun, and that the change in the common exam time to Fridays is now in effect. He also noted that the union contract for the lecturer faculty has been approved.

IV. Remarks by and questions to the senate chair- The senate chair thanked all the senators who attended the summer planning session on August 20th, noting that the bulk of the work

done that day involved creating the charges for the senate committees. The initial charges for this year have been put together and will be given to the committee chairs today.

Deb then reviewed some of the larger tasks being taken on this year. The report from the Discovery Review Committee has been completed, and the senate AAC will share its findings on that soon. The Teaching Evaluation Implementation Committee is now in the implementation stage of their work on the electronic teaching evaluations. Hopefully they will have a report for the senate by mid-fall. Navitas is under review this year. Ed Hinson is the faculty representative on that review committee and he will be reporting to the senate in the future.

The senate chair is serving on the Professional Success Task Force, and she referred the senators again to review the Curran Report on Blackboard in the UNH>MY UNH area, middle column, fourth item down. She noted that it is a very ambitious report, and said that the question will be to see how many of the recommendations can actually be implemented.

Deb then reminded the senators of the many university-wide committees that require faculty representation, besides the faculty senate standing and ad-hoc committees. She said that she will be asking for additional representatives for some of these university-wide committees. She also noted that reporting back to the senate on the work of the committees is part of the responsibility of such service.

The senate chair then announced the membership of this year's University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (UCAPC), which members are:

University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (3 year term)

Raina Ames, Theatre & Dance, COLA, to 7/1/17
David Bachrach, History, COLA, to 7/1/16
Carole Barnett, Management, PCBE to 7/1/16
Brooks Carter, Social Work, CHHS, to 7/1/18
Joanne Curran-Celentano, COLSA, to 7/1/17
Melvin Dubnick, Political Science, COLA to 7/1/18
Robert Henry, Civil Engineering, CEPS, to 7/1/17
Marcus Hurn, School of Law, to 7/1/18
Linda Johnson, Government Information, Library to 7/1/16
Jessica Bolker, Biological Sciences, COLSA, to 7/1/18
Sterling Tomellini, Chemistry, CEPS, to 7/1/18
Robert Macieski, UNH-M to 7/1/18
Mary Rhiel, VPAA's designee
Neil Vroman, Chair of the Academic Standards and Advising Committee
Cameron Cook, Student Body President
Mary Grace Elliott, Graduate Student Senate Representative

The purpose of UCAPC is to resolve issues when academic programs cross colleges, and some sort of disagreement requires resolution. The senate itself does not involve itself in the inner workings of individual departments or colleges.

Deb then talked about the shared governance environment in which we operate, noting that share governance really means shared responsibility. In this community, we have tremendous energy and resources to bring about great things. When concerns arise regarding the academic mission of the university, the senate can bring forward solutions, or provide meaningful input to the community conversation, helping to shape policy and bring problems to light.

The chair then briefly discussed what is expected of senators in these meetings. She reminded the senators that if they must miss a senate meeting, they should try to secure a proxy from within their department. She pointed out that as each senator can have no more than one vote in senate matters, a senator from one department may not serve as a proxy from either that department or another department. She asked that senators inform the senate office when they cannot be in attendance so that plans can be made regarding senate votes that may occur.

She also reminded the senators of the importance of bringing senate business and information to their respective departments to share information and also gather critical feedback from their colleagues. Each senator serves as the voice of their department in the senate. It is also important that each senator take seriously their responsibilities in their service on the standing senate committees, taking information to their departments, and also in attending committee meetings and taking an active role in the work of those committees.

V. Minutes – It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last senate meeting, May 4, 2015, Session XIX. The minutes were approved with 10 abstentions.

It was then moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last senate meeting, May 4, 2015, Session XX. The minutes were approved with 10 abstentions.

Discussion/Report Items:

VI. Discussion with Student Senate Speaker – The senate chair introduced Gabe Hoffman, the Speaker of the Student Senate. The Student Senate serves as an advisory body to the university president. Gabe described his responsibilities as a deliberative leader to bring forward the ideas and issues being examined by the senate, and to advocate, educate, and communicate those issues from the Hall Councils.

He shared his email address (senate.speaker@unh.edu) and said that the student senate, which meets on Sunday evenings, would be happy to have members of the senate contact him about speaking as a guest speaker at one of their meetings to share ideas and information with the student body. He said that interested faculty could also contact Cameron Cook, the Student Body President, or the Academic Affairs Chair of the Student Senate if there were issues to bring to the attention of students.

A senator asked how student senate seats are allotted. Gabe described how the students vote for their representatives in their dorms, with each dorm electing a certain number of representatives based on population. Non-resident students (commuters and other students not living in dorms) have about fifty spots reserved. One senator represents 100 students.

Deb thanked Gabe for speaking with the faculty senate today.

VII. Motion from senate Agenda Committee on creating ad hoc committee to investigate the feasibility of a tri-mester system – Jim Connell presented the following motion, prepared by the senate Agenda Committee:

**Motion from Faculty Senate Agenda Committee – Jim Connell presenting
August 31, 2015**

on forming an ad-hoc committee on the feasibility of a tri-semester schedule

Rationale:

Ever-increasing restrictions on UNH’s budget, whether from lack of support from the New Hampshire legislature, or from desire to halt the continued rise of tuition, calls for examination of other methods of raising money to fund UNH’s endeavors. As well, the competitive pressure to provide students with increased flexibility in the completion of their degrees calls for a look at possible new methods.

One such method is to transfer from a dual semester system to a tri-semester system. UNH’s facilities are relatively empty during the summer months, although there is some summer programming which must be considered.

Benefits to such a change include the potential for more tuition dollars, while students will have the option to finish in less than four years, or to be able to include semester abroad study without needing to add an extra semester to their education. Faculty could have the option to take their “summer break” in the fall, spring, or summer, depending on the needs of departments, increasing the potential for flexibility in pursuing off-campus research and development opportunities.

Concurrent with the above has been the rising enrollment at UNH Durham and the resultant pressures on many programs that are limited by specialized spaces such as instructional laboratories, performances and practice spaces, etc.

Drawbacks include the amount of funding needed to prepare facilities for a year-round operation and the interruption or lessening of summer programming aimed at children and adolescents, as well as some long-standing summer workshops.

The benefits, at first glance, seem to outweigh the deficits. Dartmouth transitioned to a tri-semester system and has enjoyed increased tuition as well as faculty and student satisfaction with the change. Such a change, however, should only be undertaken if it will serve the academic mission of the University.

For the reasons above, the Agenda Committee proposes that the Faculty Senate lead the way in determining the appropriateness of the suggested change by engaging in a feasibility study which would focus on the benefits and detriments to the academic programming of the University.

Motion:

The Faculty Senate will undertake a feasibility study on the potential move from a dual- to a tri-semester system, and particularly the implications for the academic mission. The Faculty Senate will form an ad-hoc committee which will have faculty representatives from each college, UNH-Manchester, the School of Law, the Library, and undergraduate and graduate student representatives. The Agenda committee will appoint the committee and invite selected non-faculty members who could contribute to the study to serve on the committee. The Agenda Committee will charge the committee to meet these goals. The committee should report its findings and recommendations to the Faculty Senate by the end of March 2016.

The senate chair pointed out that it seems preferable for the senate to take up this issue now in order for the faculty to drive the investigation from an academic perspective, rather than allowing the plans to be driven from a financial perspective only. The senate admin will email this motion to all senators after this meeting.

A senator asked if the administration is open to this. The chair replied that they are, but at this point they are unwilling to move forward without input from the faculty.

There was a great deal of discussion about issues that the ad hoc committee would need to address, including the effect of such a system on the academic calendar, the impact to faculty contracts and appointments, inclusion or elimination of the current summer terms and the effect on existing summer programs, campus planning and construction, comparing revenues of tri-mester versus two-semester systems, online education and the pressure to increase the number of online courses generally, and the impact even on the senate itself.

There was also discussion about the composition of the ad hoc committee. The senate chair said that the intent is for every college to be represented with faculty both in the senate and outside the senate, administration, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students.

A senator asked if the March 2016 report date is too ambitious. The chair replied that it will provide a starting point. A senator suggested examining comparator universities to see what other schools have done to implement similar systems. Another senator asked if the senate should compile a list of all of the issues being discussed today before charging the ad hoc committee.

After some discussion, several friendly amendments were accepted to adjust the wording, changing “tri-semester” to “tri-mester” in the first sentence, and removing “and recommendations” from the final sentence. The resulting motion follows:

Motion:

The Faculty Senate will undertake a feasibility study on the potential move from a dual- to a tri-mester system, and particularly the implications for the academic mission. The Faculty Senate will form an ad-hoc committee which will have faculty representatives from each college, UNH-Manchester, the School of Law, the Library, and undergraduate and graduate student representatives. The Agenda committee will

appoint the committee and invite selected non-faculty members who could contribute to the study to serve on the committee. The Agenda Committee will charge the committee to meet these goals. The committee should report its findings to the Faculty Senate by the end of March 2016.

This motion will lay over until the next meeting.

VIII. Discussion with Student Body President – Cameron Cook, the UNH Student Body President, spoke for a few minutes with the senate. He informed the senate that two student senate representatives will attend faculty senate meetings to maintain a connection between the two deliberative bodies, and welcomed senators to attend the student senate meetings at 6 p.m. on Sunday evenings. He said that one issue important to the student senate currently is that of career and advising services, and noted that he is currently serving with the faculty senate chair on the Professional Success Task Force.

He said that the student senate is looking at Study Abroad issues, and problems that students are having with credit transfers from those experiences. He also said that the Discovery Program is another topic of interest. He invited faculty to come by his office, 119 MUB with questions or issues. The senate chair thanked him for taking time to speak with us today.

IX. New business – there was no new business

X. Adjournment- It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m.