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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FACULTY SENATE
26 OCTOBER 1998 MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: Connors, Niman, Pugh, and Sohl. Excused were Brinker, Draper, Gaudette, McNamara, Miller, Morris and Walsh. Four members of the Preparing Future Faculty Program from Howard University were guests at part of the meeting.

II. Discussion with the President - President Leitzel announced proposed program reductions and said that they can be reviewed on the Academic Affairs web site. Some of the budget reductions are not yet firm and will be decided later when more information is in hand. She will meet shortly with the trustees and will discuss the budget reduction plan and also domestic partner benefits. The university has recently been awarded almost eighteen million dollars in federal funding for research. UNH is able to attract federal, industrial and private funds but needs more state funding. The university has requested a five percent increase in its operating budget plus two percent more for instructional technology. The University of Massachusetts cut tuition but increased fees; and it substantially increased financial aid. A professor proposed that we tell the legislators that UNH is losing students to states which give better support to higher education.

III. Communication from the Chair - John Crosier of the Business and Industry Association will speak to the Faculty Senate on November 9 in the 1925 room of the Alumni Center. Deb Winslow will be the Faculty Senator's representative on the General Education Committee. The senate's Academic Affairs Committee and Finance and Administration Committee will meet with the vice president for financial affairs to review the responsibility-centered management proposal and would like input from faculty on this issue. Concern was expressed that many crucial details of responsibility-centered management are not known. In response to a question on whether the decision on responsibility-centered management has already been made, the senate chair asked senators to express their concerns to the two senate committees and said that he assumes the chairs of those committees will bring a motion on this to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate now has a web site where its minutes, agendas and other information are displayed.

IV. Minutes - The minutes of the October 12 Faculty Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

V. Budget Shortfall - The senate chair said that he will distribute to the senators the comments made by the Agenda and Academic Affairs Committees regarding the provost and deans' recommendations to meet the budget shortfall and also the president's letter to the provost responding to those recommendations. The academic impact statement by the senate's Agenda Committee and Academic Affairs Committee tried to take a university-wide perspective and to protect general education, faculty and the library. Also the Agenda Committee reminded the deans of the need for formal review by the faculty of proposed program cuts and also asked that all faculty vacancies which will remain unfilled should be strategically chosen.

James Farrell read a statement expressing his disappointment at reading in the press that the president has approved budget reductions, before the proposals have been provided to the Faculty Senate for its discussion and input. He expressed concern that the administration has apparently used the academic input statement, written by the senate's Agenda Committee, to imply that the Faculty Senate had endorsed the cuts. He stated that the Faculty Senate's constitution says that "The Faculty Senate will be the legislative body that reviews and develops

policies concerned with the academic mission of the university". He claimed that the senate chair had given assurances that the Faculty Senate would see and discuss the recommendations before they were approved by the president.

The senate chair said that he had not made such a statement. In response to a comment that so far this year the senate has not voted on any motions but just listened to presentations from administrators, the chair said that, traditionally, charges are given to senate committees in early fall and that, while the committees are reviewing the charges and preparing motions, administrators are invited to talk with the senate. He pointed out that confidentiality was imposed by the administration as a condition for the Agenda Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee being allowed to review the recommendations and give early input. Responding to a question about what effect the Agenda Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee had on the budget recommendations, the chair said that, when changes in general education were proposed, we asserted the Faculty Senate's right to decide on general education requirements and the president agreed. Also, we expressed concern for tenured faculty and about proposed changes which would have a university-wide effect. The two senate committees which wrote the impact statement did not endorse the budget reductions but commented on them.

A senator said that the imposition of confidentiality is unwise and prevents the senate from having input early enough in the process to affect the outcome. He added that, during the presidential search, the president had said that her administration would be very open with the faculty on all issues. **A motion was made and seconded that a special meeting of the Faculty Senate be held on Monday, November 2, in 314 McConnell Hall to discuss these issues. A friendly amendment was made to change the motion to refer to an emergency meeting of the senate.** If this motion passes, the joint meeting of the senate's Academic Affairs Committee and Finance and Administration Committee with the vice president for financial affairs, to review the responsibility-centered management proposal, will have to be rescheduled. Concern was expressed that some proposed budget cuts were removed from the final recommendations and that confidentiality was a protection for the people and programs which were removed from consideration. A vote was called, and **the motion passed with one nay.**

At the request of senators, Young Dawkins, who had been invited to make a presentation on the UNH Foundation at today's senate meeting, said that he would be happy to return at another time for that purpose. The senators will discuss the budget matters today and, at the end of this meeting, reconsider the motion on the emergency meeting.

Great concern was expressed that, when decisions are made in small groups, information is lost. However, if the press had gotten hold of proposed cuts which were later removed, damage could have occurred to the programs involved. A senator said that he compliments his colleagues on getting as much out of the budgetary process as they did but that we should try to change the process. Another faculty member proposed that the senate could keep confidentiality in the same way the Dean's Council and the committees did. However, any faculty member has access to the tapes of the senate meetings, and the senate minutes are put on the internet publicly, unless the senate should decide to change those rules.

We should make it clear that the academic impact statement by the Agenda Committee and the Academic Affairs committee was not an endorsement of the budget recommendations and that the Faculty Senate does not endorse the budgetary cuts that were proposed. We should say that, although the Faculty Senate has an advisory role only, the Faculty Senate should have timely input on all academic matters. Academic programs cannot be discontinued without a year's review by faculty. The Agenda Committee reminded the deans about this process, and

the president agreed. The senate chair was quoted in the press recently as saying that the state should better support the university. A motion was made and seconded to cancel the emergency meeting next Monday. The motion was defeated with eleven ayes, 1 abstention and 23 nays. The emergency meeting will be held on Monday.

VI. Adjournment - Today's meeting was adjourned.