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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FACULTY SENATE
22 MARCH 1999 MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: Bornstein, de la Torre, Gaudette, Grenier, Gross, Kaen, McNamara, Niman, Pugh, Reardon, Roh, Wang, Williams, Winslow, Zsigray and Zunz. Absent as work to rule were Brinker, Carr, Coon and Echt. Excused were Draper, Keim, Komonchak, Macieski and Sherman.

II. Motion to Withdraw Standing Invitation - James Farrell **moved** and Art Balderacchi seconded **that the Faculty Senate hereby respectfully withdraws the standing invitation to the president of the university to address the senate, until such time as she is prepared to discuss collective bargaining or until there is a contract settlement between the UNH faculty and the USNH Board of Trustees.** The rationale for the motion was that the president's presence at the start of every meeting of the Faculty Senate indicates business as usual which is inappropriate when a faculty contract still has not been obtained. Another faculty member responded that the Faculty Senate is definitely a faculty body and thus is not covered under work to rule. Also he said that the senate benefits from being able to discuss issues directly with the president at these meetings. Another professor said that, if the senate does not give input on issues, the administration will make the decisions without faculty input. Professors pointed out that the president speaks out strongly on issues such as not cutting athletic scholarships and the need for more university buildings. The Faculty Senate constitution states that "Collective bargaining issues may be discussed, but no official action may be taken." The president has said that she has no role in the negotiation process and that fair labor practices limit what she can say to faculty about issues under negotiation. However, some faculty feel that she is relinquishing her authority and influence on this issue. Some professors asked that, if the president is legally bound not to discuss collective bargaining, this law or ruling should be shown to the faculty.

III. Communications from the Chair - The Faculty Senate chair said that the senate's Academic Affairs and Finance and Administration Committees have been meeting with the vice president for finance and administration to discuss the decentralized budget plan. There will be an open forum about this on April 6 from 12:30 to 2:00 in the Johnson Theater. The Agenda Committee has met with the vice president for finance and administration to discuss the time frame for Faculty Senate involvement. Discussions will continue this semester; the new provost will arrive in the summer; and no major decisions on the decentralized budget plan will be made until during the fall semester.

The Agenda Committee was given a copy of a draft of the Faculty Handbook and has referred it to the Professional Standards Committee for review. The AAUP has also received a copy of the draft. The question which Professor Appel brought up at the last senate meeting has been referred to the Finance and Administration Committee. At the April 5 Faculty Senate meeting, the Academic Affairs Committee will present a motion on the formation of the Academic Oversight Committee.

Regarding work to rule, the history is that there were no cancellations of the Academic Senate in 1994/95. In 1995/96, the Academic Senate functioned until the Faculty Senate was created after the start of work to rule. The Faculty Senate has continued since its formation without interruption. The Faculty Senate is a totally faculty body. The senate chair said that he is a member of AAUP and that he believes it is important that the Faculty Senate be vigilant in

protecting faculty and academic interests by continuing its work. Each faculty member should interpret work to rule as dictated by her/his conscience.

The senate chair announced the dates, times and location of open meetings with candidates for provost. The senate chair has submitted a proposal to the Parent's Association regarding a budget for the activities of the General Education Study Committee.

IV. Presentation on Book Costs for Students - The student body president and vice president expressed concern about the rising cost of textbooks, especially when added to the increasing cost of tuition, fees, room and board. The students said that some courses require three or four books and that some students must pay \$600 for texts in one semester. Often a new edition of a book is required even though there is little change from the previous edition. A discussion followed on second-hand book selling, the possibility of a cooperative book exchange, and the use of course packets and the library reserve system.

V. Report on Accessing Career Challenges in Education through Specialized Services - This office bases its work on section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and on the Americans with Disabilities Act which says that no otherwise-qualified person with a disability should be deprived of services in an institution receiving federal assistance. The ACCESS Office works to provide services and support to both students and faculty. Compliance issues are dealt with not by ACCESS but by the Affirmative Action Office. Textbooks have been recorded for the use of blind or dyslexic persons, but frequent new editions are a difficulty for students in this program. The ACCESS Office refers students to the Academic Advising Center, the Center for Academic Resources and the Writing Center, as well as the Counseling Center and the Health Service.

Students served by the ACCESS Office must meet the usual UNH admission requirements and must present the professor with an official letter showing that they qualify for the ACCESS program. In the classroom, professors should maintain their usual standards but may need to modify certain rules about testing, note taking, tape recording, etc. A discussion ensued on the standards of testing to define students who qualify for this program. Margo Druschel, Coordinator of ACCESS, said that she would like to work closely with faculty and students to meet the needs of well-qualified students with disabilities.

VI. Minutes - The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

VII. Open Mike - When a quorum was present and the senate's agenda had been completed, the senate resumed discussion about the standing invitation to the president. Some faculty felt that the motion should be approved as a symbolic gesture, while other professors said that the best way to resolve difficult situations is to discuss them face to face and that faculty should take advantage of the opportunity which senate offers to discuss issues with the president. Faculty said that we should ask the president what law or regulation states that the university president cannot speak about collective bargaining issues. A motion was made and seconded to table the motion. **The motion to table passed with seventeen ayes and nine nays.**

VIII. Adjournment - Today's meeting was adjourned.